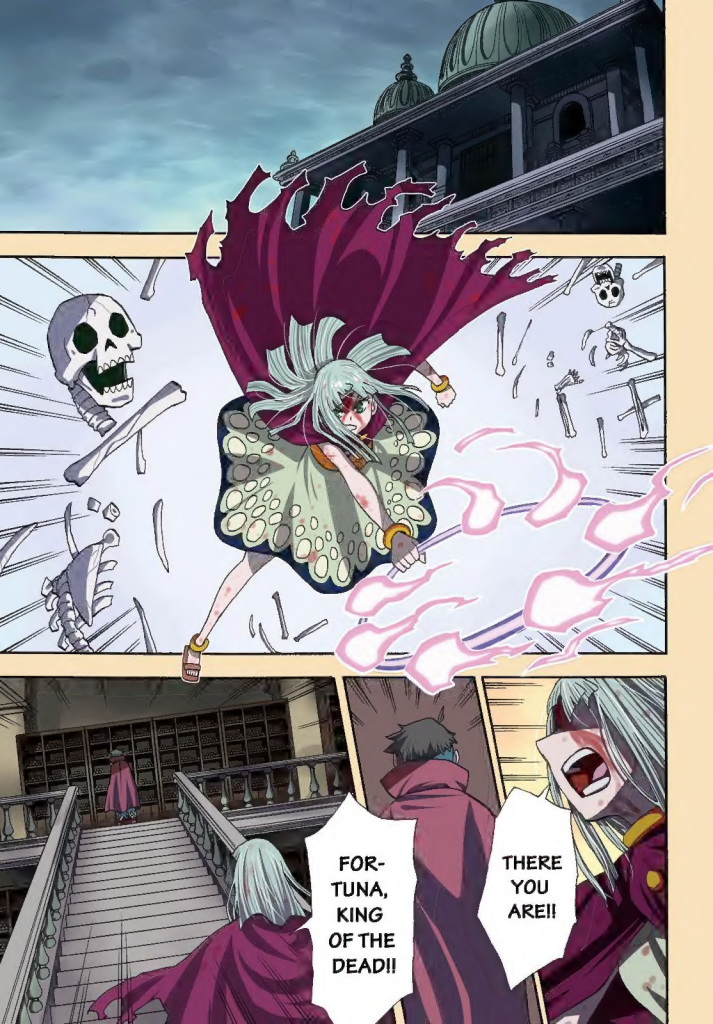

THERE YOU ARE!!
FOR-TUNA, KING OF THE DEAD!!

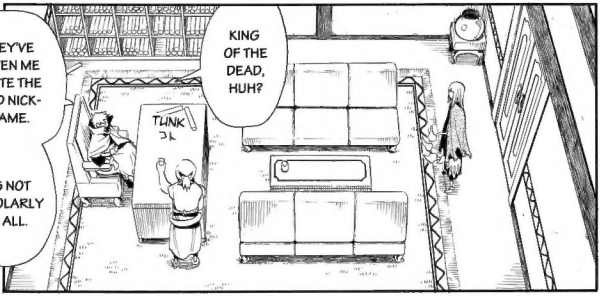
CIRCLE 38
FORTUNA 5

YOU'VE GROWN...
AND YOU'VE GROWN OLD...

STEP
I MADE IT INTO THE CITY COUNTLESS TIMES ONLY TO FLEE AFTER FIGHTING YOUR REANIMATED SOLDIERS...
IT TOOK A WHILE TO GET HERE.
LONG TIME, NO SEE.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU MADE IT HERE.
YOU'RE A MESS.

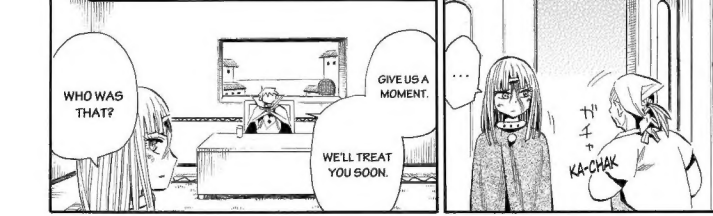
COME THIS WAY, KOKO.
...

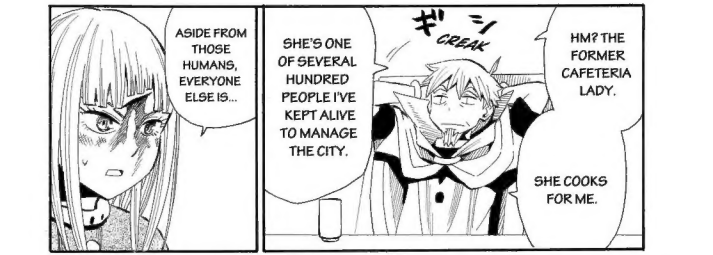
STEP BACK. SHE'S MY GUEST.
I SEE. I DIDN'T NOTICE WHAT WAS HAPPENING OUTSIDE.
RATTLE
RATTLE

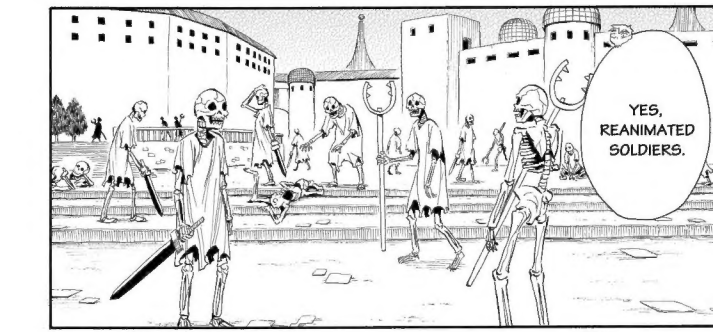

KING OF THE DEAD, HUH?
THEY'VE GIVEN ME QUITE THE ODD NICKNAME.
IT'S NOT SCHOLARLY AT ALL.
THINK

HAVE A SEAT.
MA'AM, HAVE WE GOT A MEDICAL KIT?
I'LL GO LOOK FOR ONE.

...


WHO WAS THAT?
GIVE US A MOMENT.
WE'LL TREAT YOU SOON.
...
KA-CHAK


ASIDE FROM THOSE HUMANS, EVERYONE ELSE IS...
SHE'S ONE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE I'VE KEPT ALIVE TO MANAGE THE CITY.
CREAK
HM? THE FORMER CAFETERIA LADY.
SHE COOKS FOR ME.


YES, REANIMATED SOLDIERS.

...50 THOU-SAND...
BEFORE IT BECAME THE CITY OF THE DEAD, THE WESTERN CAPITAL'S POPULATION WAS...

WHERE'S RUNE?
HE'S WAITING OUTSIDE THE CITY.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE DANGEROUS TO BRING HIM SINCE HE'D INTERFERE WITH THE SOLDIERS.
IS HE WELL?
BY THE WAY, HOW'S EAST?
I WANT TO SEE RUNE, BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE EAST?
I'LL CALL RUNE.
I'LL TELL THE SOLDIERS TO RELAX THEIR GUARD, SO SUMMON EAST.
AT THIS HOUR, SHE SHOULD BE OUT LOOKING AT THE OCEAN.
...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SIT?
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, TOO, OF COURSE.
YOU'VE GROWN INTO A BEAUTY.
I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM.
THE FOUR OF US CAN LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN.
YEAH?
WELL? WHY DON'T YOU LIVE HERE WITH ME?

...

IT HAS SLABS THAT PROJECT IMAGES IN MID-AIR!!
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL YOU!! THIS PLACE IS AMAZING!!
THE MORE RECORDS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION I READ, THE MORE SURPRISES I FIND!!
THERE'S A HIDDEN UNDERGROUND LIBRARY, AND IT'S GOT MORE THAN JUST SCROLLS.

ABOUT WHAT?
?
THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION'S...
IT WASN'T NATURALLY FORMED AT ALL!!
IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW THAT FAMOUS TOURIST SPOT, THE BASIN OF DARKNESS, WAS FORMED!!
YOU DON'T REGRET ANYTHING...
...

OH, RIGHT!! I HAD A GREAT IDEA!!
YOU CAN'T LEARN EVERYTHING FROM JUST TEXT, RIGHT?
SO I'VE BEEN THINKING OF HOW I CAN FREELY TRAVEL TO OTHER WORLDS!!
IT TAKES A LOT OF ENERGY, AND...
FIRST, I'LL CAUSE A MAJOR INCIDENT TO CATCH THE WORLD'S ATTENTION!
THAT WILL GATHER A BUNCH OF SPIRIT DIMENSION OBSERVATION POINTS AT SPECIFIC POINTS IN SPACE-TIME! NOT PHYSICAL, BUT MENTAL!
I'LL USE THE CIRCLE TO CHANGE THEIR DIRECTIONALITY INTO NON-DIRECTIONALITY! SINCE THAT CONSUMES THE ENERGY REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A UNIVERSE, "HERE" WILL DISAPPEAR...
...BUT IT WILL TURN MY CONSCIOUSNESS INTO DIRECTIONALITY ITSELF! IT WILL ALLOW ME TO FREELY TRAVERSE WORLDS OF OTHER POSSIBILITIES AND SPACE-TIME VALUES!!
OTHER WORLDS?
IN SOME WAYS, I'LL BECOME SPACE ITSELF!!
ISN'T THAT AMAZING?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...ANYTHING YOU'RE SAYING.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE WITH YOU...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO DIE HERE.
WELL, ONCE WE START LIVING TOGETHER, I CAN TEACH YOU...
HAVE YOU NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY SPIRITS SINCE THEN?
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!!
WHY?
?

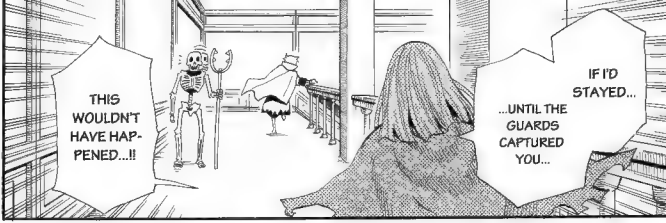
SOUL DISPER-SION!!
RETURN TO THE LIGHT!!
FWOOSH
WHOA?!
GLATTER
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CITIZENS OF THE NORTHERN INDUSTRIAL CITY!! THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CITY!!
AND THE WESTERN CAPITAL WILL BE AVENGED!!
A-AVENGED?!
DID YOU KNOW SOME OF THEM?!

THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM!!
BAM

FOR-TUNA!!
DASH
FWOOSH
WHOA!

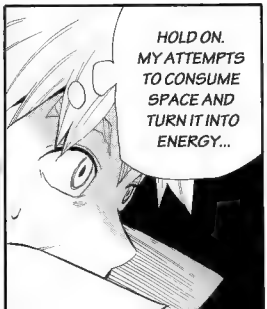
REANI-MATED SOL-DIERS!!
STOP!!
DASH

I FOUND THE MEDICAL KIT...
RUN, WOMAN!! OUR GUEST HAS LOST HER MIND!!
WHOCK
HMPH!!
WHAAAT?!
WHAT?!
WHAT?!
DODGE
I'M AN OUTSIDER WHO CAME TO DEFEAT THE KING OF THE DEAD!!
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU!!
DASH
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LOST HIS MIND!!
IF I HADN'T RUN AWAY WHEN WE PARTED WAYS AT THE HARBOR...
IF I'D CLUNG TO YOU AND KEPT SHOUTING...
WHAT?!
DASH
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOUL FURNACE EXPLOSION...
...IN THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CITY, AND THE WESTERN CAPITAL'S TRANSFORMATION INTO THE CITY OF THE DEAD!!


THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED...!!
IF I'D STAYED...
...UNTIL THE GUARDS CAPTURED YOU...

YOU WOULD NEVER...
...HAVE BECOME THE ENEMY OF HUMANKIND!!

EVENTUALLY..


HOLD ON. MY ATTEMPTS TO CONSUME SPACE AND TURN IT INTO ENERGY...

YOU'RE EXAGGERATING!
THE ENEMY OF HUMANKIND?

LEARNING IS DANGEROUS FOR YOU.
DID YOU NOT HAVE ANY DOUBTS OR HESITATION?
THE IDEA ITSELF IS DANGEROUS.
EVENTUALLY...
...THEY BECOME HEARTLESS MADMEN.

CREAK

AH...
AH!!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S LOST HIS MIND!!

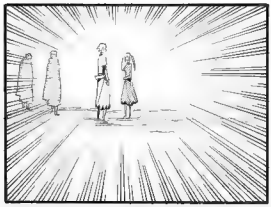
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO STRAY FROM THE PATH!!
I SEE NOW.

REANI-MATED SOLDIERS, TO ME!! FORMA-TION D!!
ROLL
ROLL
YAAAH!!
THUD
?!
FORTUNA-SAN, WATCH OUT!!

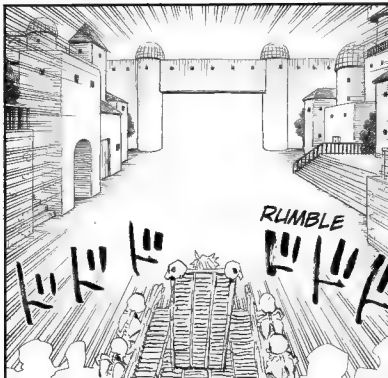
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
YAH!
FOR-MATION D?!
THE D IS FOR "DEPAR-TURE."
BANG!!
EMERGENCY DEPARTURE FORMATION!! BONE PALANQUIN!!
UGH!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RUN, SKELE-TONS!!
YOU WON'T ES-CAPE!!
I'M LEAVING THIS CITY!!
LATER, OLD WOMAN!! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!!
...

500 SOLDIERS, CARRY THE WRITINGS!!
BRING AS MANY AS YOU CAN!!
300 SOLDIERS, STOP MY PURSUER!! DON'T KILL THE GIRL!!
RUMBLE

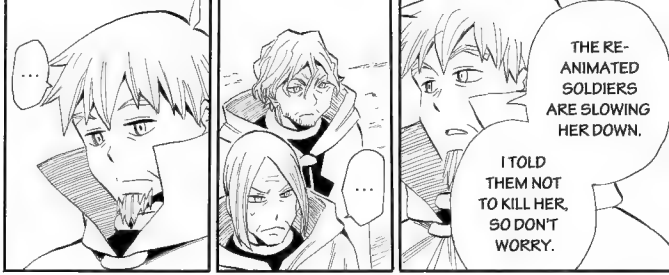
WE'LL HEAD FOR THE BASIN OF DARKNESS AND CAPTURE THE TOURIST TOWN THERE!!
EVERYONE ELSE, HEAD EAST!!

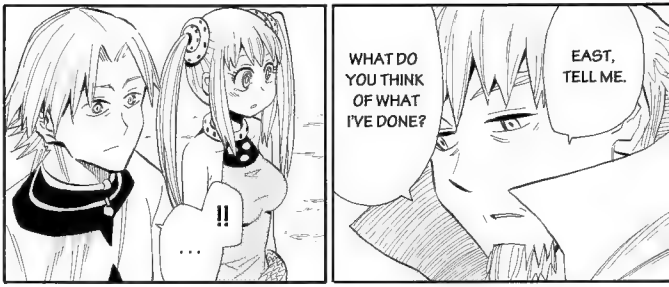


RUMBLE
!


RUMBLE

SKELE-TONS, STOP!!
EAST!! RUNE!!
SKID
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, EAST.
THERE YOU ARE, RUNE.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
KOKO SAID THE SAME THING
HELLO, FOR-TUNA...
MAS-TER.
YOU'VE GOTTEN OLD.
I SEE. THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF KOKO.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO KOKO?!
KING OF THE DEAD ...!!
...? WHO ARE THEY?
THEY RAISED KOKO. THEY'RE OUR FRIENDS.
SPIRIT SCHOLARS WE MET AT THE HARBOR WHERE WE PARTED WAYS.


...
...
THE RE-ANIMATED SOLDIERS ARE SLOWING HER DOWN.
I TOLD THEM NOT TO KILL HER, SO DON'T WORRY.

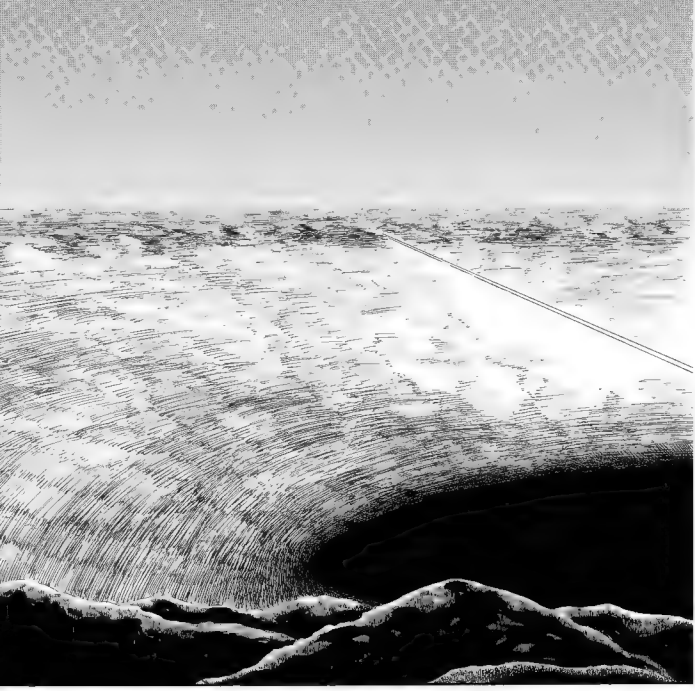

!!
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHAT I'VE DONE?
EAST, TELL ME.

I COULD NEVER HATE YOU. I ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO YOU...
BUT A LOT PEOPLE DIED FOR ME, AND KOKO IS DISTRESSED...
THE THINGS YOU DID LATER...
DO YOU HATE ME, TOO?
HAVE YOU COME TO KILL THE KING OF THE DEAD?

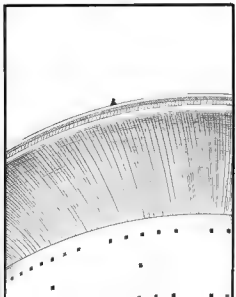
THEY ONLY MAKE ME FEEL...
...SAD AND DISAP-POINTED.
LET'S GO, RUNE.
SEE YOU LATER...
..EAST.
MY "SOME-DAY"... ...NEVER CAME TRUE.
WE COULD NEVER GO BACK TO HOW WE WERE.

THE BASIN OF DARK-NESS

WHO KNEW THIS WAS THE POWER OF ANCIENT WEAPONS...
WHAT A VIEW.

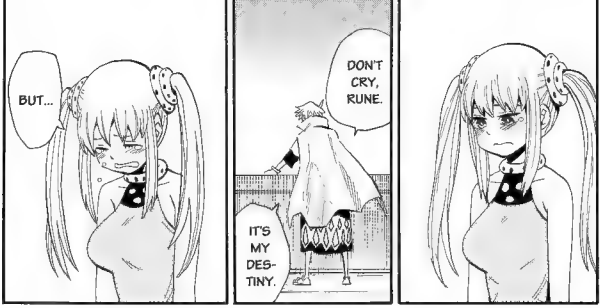


I SUPPOSE IT'S TOO OLD...
BUT NO SPIRIT MATTER REMAINS.

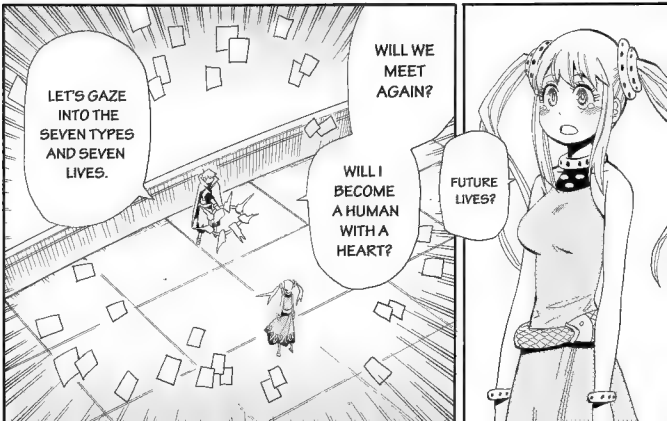


MAS-
TER...
WILL WE EVER SEE KOKO-CHAN AND EAST-SAN AGAIN?
I SUP-POSE NOT.
I DOUBT WE WILL...
APPAR-ENTLY I'M NOT SANE.
NO ONE UNDER-STANDS ME.
WHEN KOKO CAME TO KILL ME, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD.
I'VE BECOME ONE OF THE "HEARTLESS MADMEN" MY MASTER SPOKE OF...
MY MASTER WAS RIGHT.
I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND THE SIGNIFI-CANCE...
...OF WHAT YOU HAD DONE...
I THINK I MIGHT BE HEARTLESS AS WELL.
BUT...

...FILLS ME...
...WITH SAD-NESS.
THE THOUGHT OF NEVER SEEING KOKO-CHAN AND EAST-SAN...
I CAN'T QUIT THESE "ATROCI-TIES."
I JUST CONQUERED THIS CITY.
I UNDER-STAND THAT AS WELL.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR THIS LIFE.
I WAS BORN THIS WAY.
BUT IT'S GOOD TO UNDERSTAND WHO I AM.
I WAS BORN TO EXPOSE THE SECRETS...
...OF THIS WORLD!!
I AM A HEARTLESS MADMAN.


BUT...
DON'T CRY, RUNE.
IT'S MY DES-TINY.

I CALL THEM FUTURE LIVES, BUT THEY'RE NO MORE THAN INDIVIDUAL POINTS IN OTHER WORLDS WITH OTHER POSSIBILITIES AND SPACE-TIME VALUES. IF YOU FOLLOW THEIR INERTIA, THOUGH, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE ONES THAT ARE VERY "CLOSE."
I KNOW, RUNE.
IF THERE'S NO HOPE FOR THIS LIFE, WHY NOT LOOK AT OUR FUTURE LIVES...
.. WITH THE SPIRIT CIRCLE?

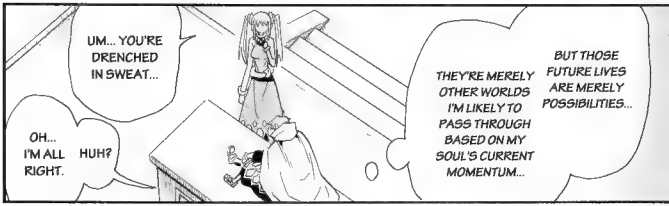

LET'S GAZE INTO THE SEVEN TYPES AND SEVEN LIVES.
WILL WE MEET AGAIN?
WILL I BECOME A HUMAN WITH A HEART?
FUTURE LIVES?

CIRCLE 39
FORTUNA 6

KAPOWWW

MAS-
TER...?
WERE YOU ABLE TO SEE YOUR FUTURE LIVES?
DID WE... MEET AGAIN...?
WE DID...
BUT...
IN MY SEVENTH FUTURE LIFE, I...

MAS-
TER...?
...AND MY CYCLE OF REBIRTH IS DISCON-TINUED!
MY SEVENTH FUTURE LIFE, I'M DEFEATED BY KOKO...


UM... YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT...
OH... I'M ALL RIGHT.
HUH?
THEY'RE MERELY OTHER WORLDS I'M LIKELY TO PASS THROUGH BASED ON MY SOUL'S CURRENT MOMENTUM...
BUT THOSE FUTURE LIVES ARE MERELY POSSIBILITIES...

BUT NOW I KNOW THE DETAILS OF MY OWN LIFE... NO, WAIT. IT'S STILL ONLY ONE OF COUNTLESS OTHER WORLDS... IT'S NOT NEC-ESSARILY...
BECAUSE SO MUCH WAS FUZZY, WE MANAGED TO AVOID THE ENDLESS HELL OF CONSUMING EACH OTHER'S SUBJECTIVE VIEWS...
AND THE FACT THAT THE FUUTA I SAW WAS LOOKING BACK ON ME, FORTUNA, COMPLICATES THINGS, TOO...

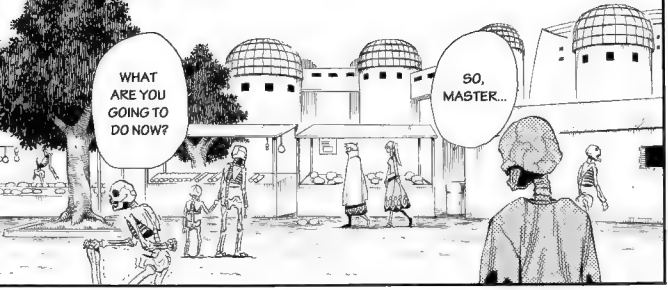
SO THEN...
...WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE GOT TO SEE KOKO-CHAN AND EAST-SAN AGAIN, RIGHT?

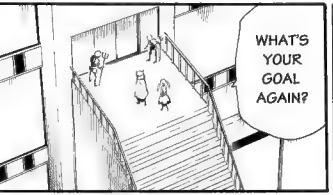
FUUTA IS THE KEY...
I'M JUST A BIT TIRED.
I SUMMONED RUNE AGAIN AND ACQUIRED THE CIRCLE...
AND EAST, WHO IS WITH THE CIRCLE, HAS MANIFESTED AT THE SAME COORDINATES...
SHE MANAGED TO EXTRACT THE SPIRIT CIRCLE FUSED WITH HER OWN SPIRITUAL DIMENSION.
IN THE SEVENTH FUTURE LIFE, KOKO REGAINED HER CURRENT MEMORIES.
...WERE PRESENT.
...MEANING ALL FOUR OF US...
IN OUR FINAL BATTLE, I WAS BEATEN...
...AND KILLED.
BUT KOKO, WHO HAD REGAINED HER PAST MEMORIES, COULDN'T FORGIVE ME...

MAS-
TER
RUSTLE

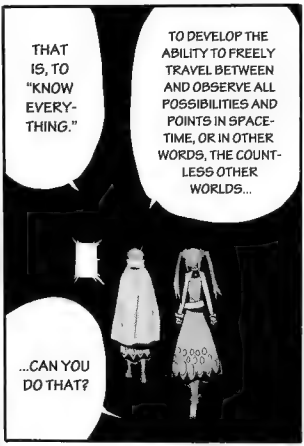
DON'T WORRY WE'LL DEFINITELY SEE THEM
YOU CAN LOOK FOR WARD TO IT

OKAY!!


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
SO, MASTER...


WHAT'S YOUR GOAL AGAIN?
SINCE I HAVE A GOAL, I'LL WORK ON THAT.
NOW THEN... AFTER THIS, THE FORTUNA WHO FUUTA SAW...

THEN OMNISCIENCE WILL BE JUST THE FIRST STEP. I'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE FREELY AS WELL.
I WILL CONSUME THIS UNI-VERSE AND BECOME A NEW ONE.
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
I WILL EVEN CREATE A NEW SPIRITUAL DIMENSION AND MAKE YOU HUMAN.


THAT IS, TO "KNOW EVERY-THING."
TO DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO FREELY TRAVEL BETWEEN AND OBSERVE ALL POSSIBILITIES AND POINTS IN SPACE-TIME, OR IN OTHER WORDS, THE COUNT-LESS OTHER WORLDS...
...CAN YOU DO THAT?

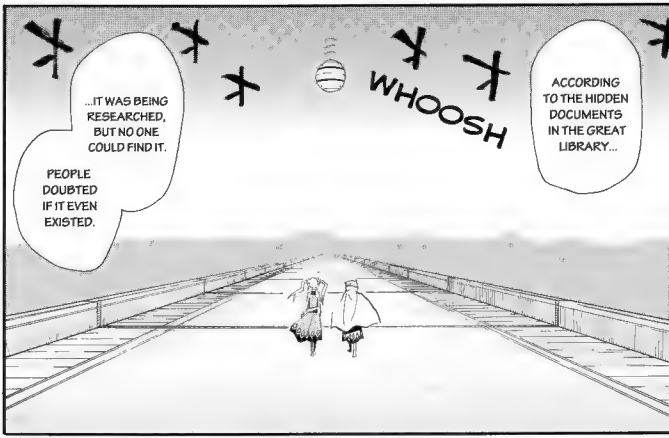
ANSWER ME, ARIONE!!

WHOOSH
MAKE ME...
...HU-MAN...

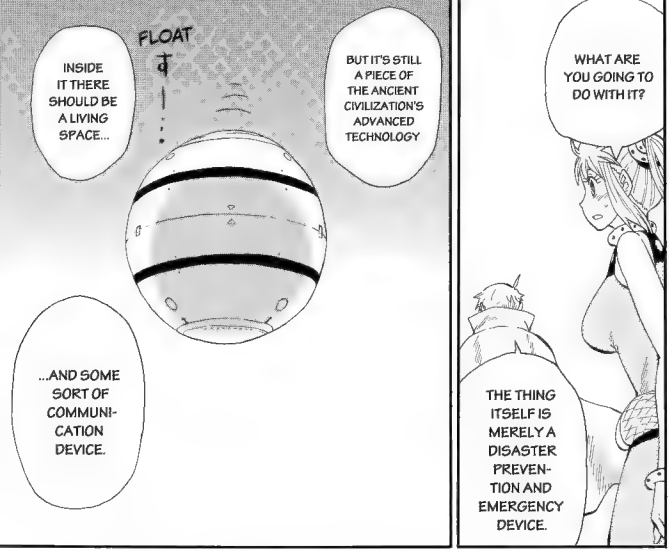
WHOOSH
TO DO THAT...
. FIRST WE NEED TO DO RE-SEARCH.

I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE!!
ぐにゃり
SKWOOSH
SHIMMER
ゆら～…

"THE SUBSPACE SHELTER."
A RELIC OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.
WHAT IS IT...?
THAT THING...


WHOOSH
...IT WAS BEING RESEARCHED, BUT NO ONE COULD FIND IT.
PEOPLE DOUBTED IF IT EVEN EXISTED.
ACCORDING TO THE HIDDEN DOCUMENTS IN THE GREAT LIBRARY...

AT THE VERY LEAST, THOSE WHO DIDN'T SUPPORT THEM CALLED THEM "ARION."
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE, BUT THEY WERE DEAD SERIOUS.
THE NAME PASSED DOWN BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TIME WAS "ARION."
THE ANCIENT ANTI-SOCIAL ORGANIZATION WAS CALLED "ARIONE."
THE NAME THAT HAD BEEN PASSED DOWN WAS WRONG.


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
THE THING ITSELF IS MERELY A DISASTER PREVEN-TION AND EMERGENCY DEVICE.
FLOAT
INSIDE IT THERE SHOULD BE A LIVING SPACE...
BUT IT'S STILL A PIECE OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION'S ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
...AND SOME SORT OF COMMUNI-CATION DEVICE.

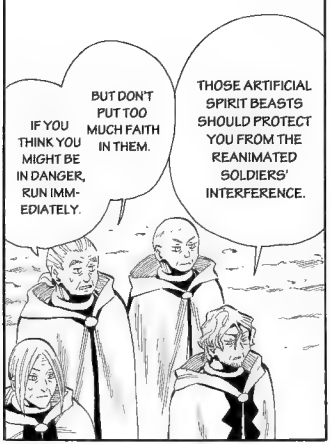
A MESSAGE, HUH?
WHAT KIND...?
HOW ABOUT THIS?
WELL...
I WILL INVES-TIGATE THEM THOROUGHLY..
...AND HAVE THEM SEND A MESSAGE FROM ME TO AS MANY CITIES AS POSSIBLE.

FROM THE KING OF THE DEAD TO HUMANITY.
THIS IS A DECLARATION OF WAR.
RESIST ME.
OTHERWISE, I'LL TURN OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION INTO CITIES OF THE DEAD.

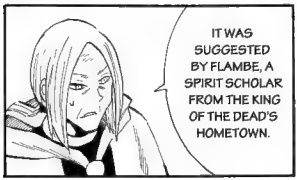
RESIST ME.
...I'LL TURN OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION...
OTHER-WISE...
...INTO CITIES OF THE DEAD.

WHOOOSH
KOKO, HERO WHO LIBERATED THE EASTERN CAPITAL...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIGHT THE REANIMATED SOLDIERS.
THE FATE OF HUMANKIND IS IN YOUR HANDS.
I'M NOT A HERO...
I'M A FOOL WHO GOT CUT ON MY FOREHEAD TWICE IN ONE DAY AT THE EASTERN CAPITAL.
YOU WERE CUT TWICE IN A VITAL SPOT AND LIVED.
IT'S PROOF YOU'RE A HERO UNDER DIVINE PROTEC-TION.
WE'VE CARVED YOUR SCAR ONTO OUR SOLDIERS' HELMETS...
...AS A SYMBOL OF A TRUE WARRIOR.

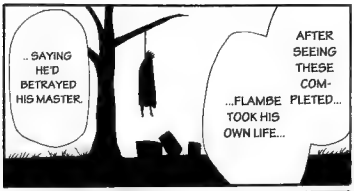
...AND ESCORT YOU TO THE KING OF THE DEAD!!
WE WILL BE YOUR SHIELD...
...YOU MUST RUN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...
...WITHOUT LOOKING BACK!!
EVEN IF WE FALL...
EAST-KUN...
...FOR YOUR ASSIS-TANCE!!
THANK YOU...


THOSE ARTIFICIAL SPIRIT BEASTS SHOULD PROTECT YOU FROM THE REANIMATED SOLDIERS' INTERFERENCE.
BUT DON'T PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN THEM.
IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE IN DANGER, RUN IMM-EDIATELY.

YES.


IT WAS SUGGESTED BY FLAMBE, A SPIRIT SCHOLAR FROM THE KING OF THE DEAD'S HOMETOWN.

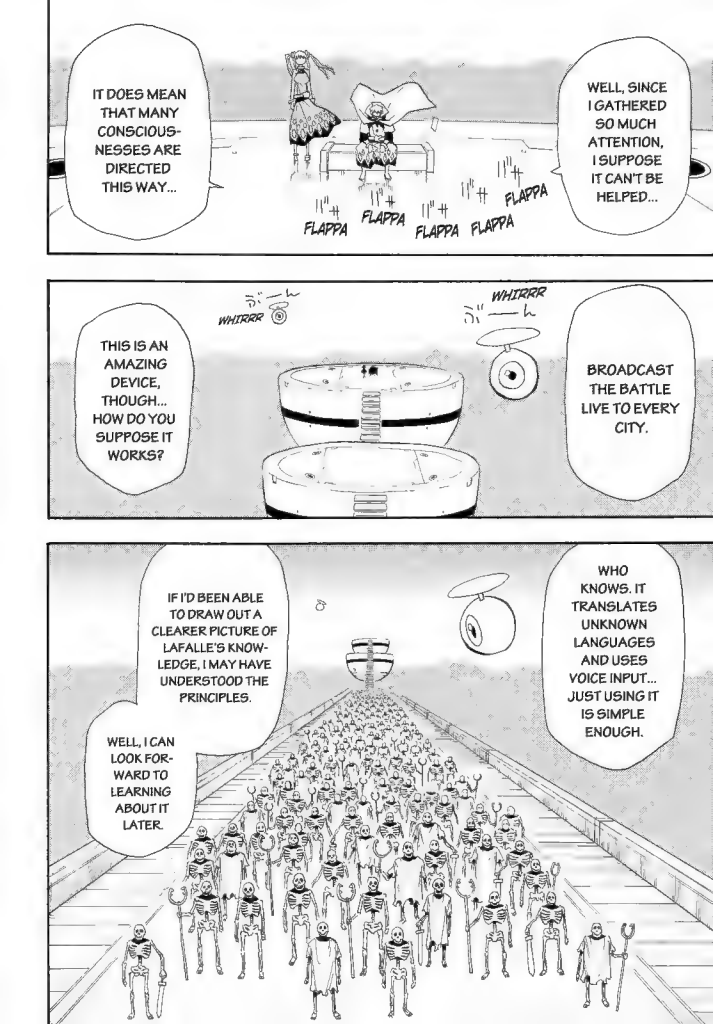
BUT THE IDEA TO MAKE ARTIFICIAL SPIRIT BEASTS WHEN IT'S TABOO...
I KNOW.


..SAYING HE'D BETRAYED HIS MASTER.
...FLAMBE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE...
AFTER SEEING THESE COM-PLETED...

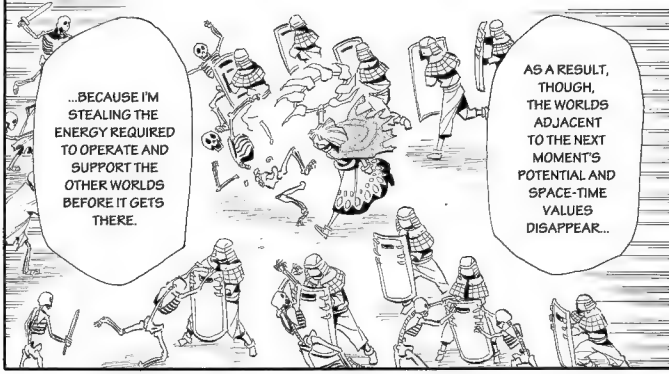
...AND OFFERED HIS ASSIS-TANCE.
HE HEARD RUMORS WE WERE FIGHTING THE KING OF THE DEAD...

BUT IT'S ONLY TABOO TO CREATE HUMANOID SPIRITS...

I SEE... I HAD NO IDEA.
HE WAS FORTUNA'S SENIOR APPRENTICE.
HEY, THEY'RE FIGHTING AGAIN.
...I'M FROM HIS HOMETOWN AS WELL. I KNEW FLAMBE-SAN.
...!!
WHIRRR
WHIRRR
THEY'RE BRINGING UNNECESSARY ADDITIONS WITH THEM
AN ARMY CORPS AND ARTIFICIAL SPIRIT BEASTS...
RUSTLE
FLAPPA
FLAPPA FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
IF IT WERE JUST KOKO AND EAST, I WOULD HAVE HAD THE SKELETONS STAND IN LINE AND LET THEM THROUGH...


IT DOES MEAN THAT MANY CONSCIOUS-NESSES ARE DIRECTED THIS WAY...
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
WELL, SINCE I GATHERED SO MUCH ATTENTION, I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
THIS IS AN AMAZING DEVICE, THOUGH... HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE IT WORKS?
WHIRRR
WHIRRR
BROADCAST THE BATTLE LIVE TO EVERY CITY.
WELL, I CAN LOOK FOR-WARD TO LEARNING ABOUT IT LATER.
IF I'D BEEN ABLE TO DRAW OUT A CLEARER PICTURE OF LAFALLE'S KNOW-LEDGE, I MAY HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE PRINCIPLES.
WHO KNOWS. IT TRANSLATES UNKNOWN LANGUAGES AND USES VOICE INPUT... JUST USING IT IS SIMPLE ENOUGH.

...GIVES BIRTH TO A DIRECTIVITY ENDING AT EITHER ME OR THIS INCIDENT.
THE SOULS AND SUBJECTIVE CONSCIOUS-NESSES IN THIS COORDINATE WORLD, IN OTHER WORDS, THE SPIRIT DIMENSION'S OBSERVATIONAL ENERGY...
...WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GATHER ALL THIS ATTEN-TION?
BY THE WAY. .
IT'S A WAY TO GATHER A LARGE AMOUNT OF OTHER-WORLD MOBILITY ENERGY.
GET!!
BY HARVESTING THAT WITH THE SPIRIT CIRCLE, IT BECOMES NON-DIRECTIONAL.
HEE HEE
WELL...
...IT WOULD MAKE SENSE IF YOU WERE A LITTLE SMARTER. .
SINCE YOU'RE A PSEUDO-SPIRIT MADE FROM MY SPIRIT DIMEN-SION...
I KNOW I ASKED, BUT...
. . .
OOH.
WHIRRR ジーん
BASICALLY, THEIR ATTENTION AND HEAT BECOMES POWER.


...BECAUSE I'M STEALING THE ENERGY REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND SUPPORT THE OTHER WORLDS BEFORE IT GETS THERE.
AS A RESULT, THOUGH, THE WORLDS ADJACENT TO THE NEXT MOMENT'S POTENTIAL AND SPACE-TIME VALUES DISAPPEAR...

THEY...
.DISAP-PEAR...

ISN'T THAT...
...A LITTLE TERRIFY-ING?

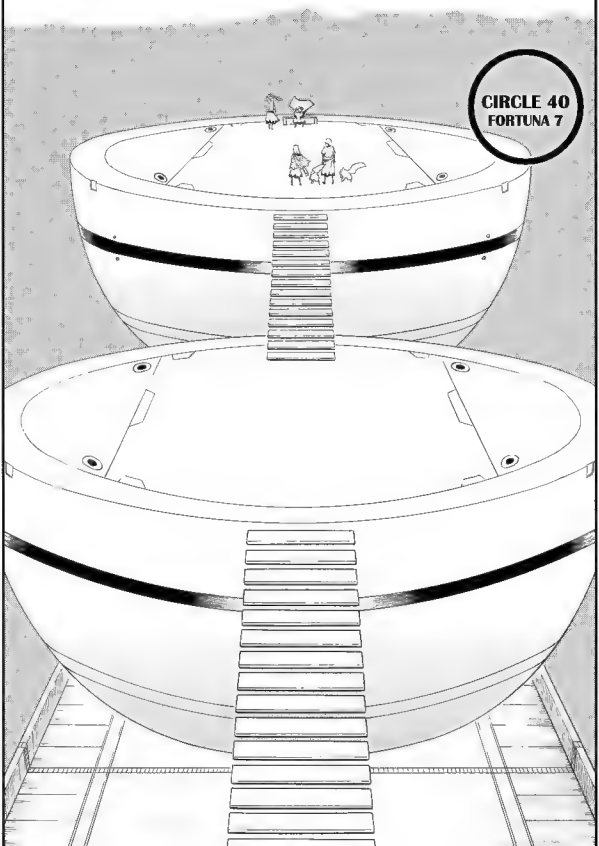
IN EXCHANGE, MY EXISTENCE BECOMES EQUAL TO ALL THE WORLDS THAT DISAP-PEARED.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO CONSUME A UNIVERSE AND BECOME ONE.

IT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ONCE YOU'RE HUMAN?
WITH THAT MUCH ENERGY, I COULD MAKE YOU HUMAN, RUNE.
I WANTED TO HELP YOU BY DOING THINGS OTHER THAN MEASURING SPIRIT MATERIAL.
I WANTED TO TRY EAST-SAN'S BREAD.
...I WANTED TO LIFT KOKO-CHAN WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE.
I CAN'T.
YOU CAN DO ALL THOSE THINGS.

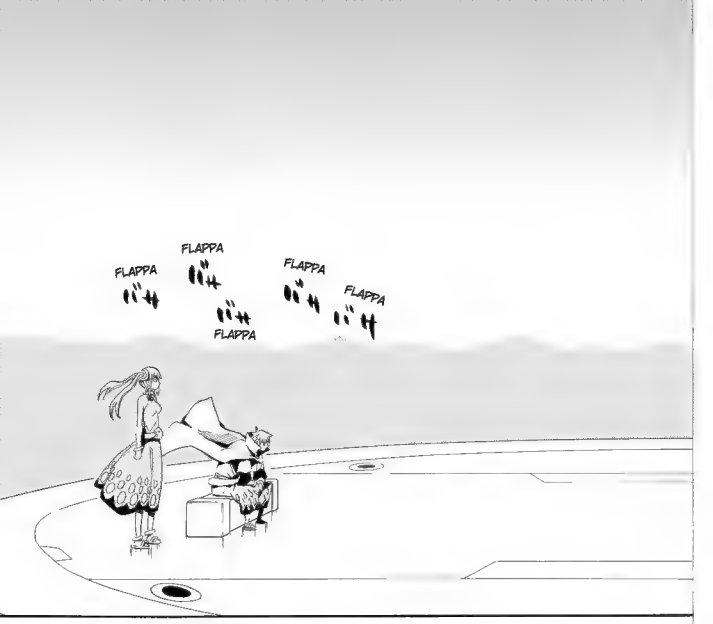
BECAUSE...

...THOSE MOMENTS HAVE ALREADY PASSED.
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA


CIRCLE 40
FORTUNA 7

FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA

KING OF THE DEAD.
...WE'RE HERE TO KILL YOU.


FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA
FLAPPA

HERO.
...YEAH.
THANKS FOR COMING.

EAST-SAN...
KOKO-CHAN...
FOR-TUNA...
RUNE...
ASK WHAT?
BEFORE I KILL YOU, I WANT TO ASK.
MY GOAL LIES BEYOND THAT.
THIS IS ONE STEP ON THE WAY.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE THE TYPE OF MAN TO BE INTERESTED IN CONQUERING THE WORLD..
WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

IS TRAMPLING ON THE SOULS OF COUNTLESS PEOPLE...
...FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT YOUR GOAL ALONE?
WELL...
I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE.
THERE WERE CHILDREN AMONG THE REANIMATED SOLDIERS.
I REANIMATED ALL THE CITY'S RESIDENTS. OF COURSE THERE WERE CHILDREN.
YOU SAW THEM IN THE EASTERN CAPITAL, DIDN'T YOU?
IN THE EASTERN CAPITAL, I DIDN'T... NO, MAYBE I PRETENDED NOT TO NOTICE.
...I'VE SEEN REANIMATED SOLDIERS OF CRAWLING BABIES, TOO.
YEAH.
I'M SURE THEY EXIST.
...AND?

KILLING YOU SEVEN TIMES ISN'T ENOUGH.
YOU FIEND.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

WHAT ABOUT IT?
FWOOM

HEY...
!!
ROAR!!
グアアア!!
GROWL!
ウウウ
CRACKLE
"4"
GROWL...
DASH
RUNE!!
YES...
YES, SIR!!
I'M SORRY !!
KOKO-CHAN, EAST-SAN!
WHUD

SKIIID

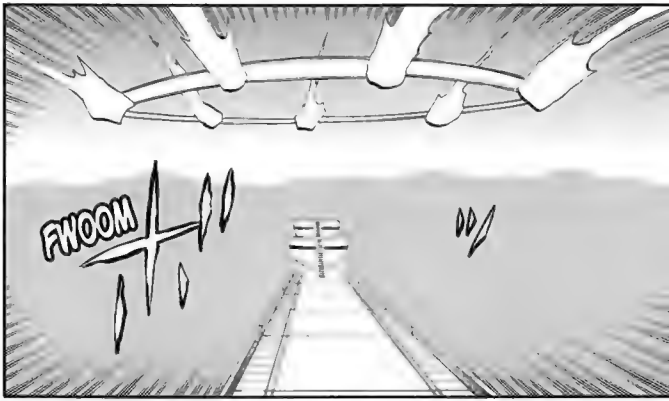
YOU DON'T NEED TO FIGHT HER!!
STOP, BEASTS!!
RUNE!!

NOW IT'S ONE-ON-ONE AGAINST THE KING OF THE DEAD.
SHOULD YOU BE TAKING YOUR EYES OFF ME...
...HERO?
EAST ...!!
RUNE ...!!

HEH HEH HEH...
...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

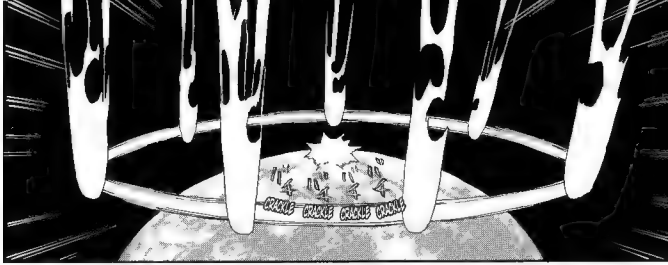
I HAD THEIR VICTIMS HELP MANAGE THE CITY.
WHILE TAKING OVER THE EASTERN CAPITAL, I DID TURN SOME ROBBERS INTO REANIMATED SOLDIERS
STAGGER
BUT IT WAS ON A WHIM.
AMONG THE SURVIVORS OF THE EASTERN CAPITAL WERE PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED TO BE SAVED BY YOU.
IS IT TRUE?
...LET ME CONFIRM ONE LAST THING.
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S TRUE, BUT IT'S NOT AS THOUGH THERE WAS A SHRED OF CONSCIENCE LEFT INSIDE ME.
I'M RELIEVED.
SPIRIT CIRCLE.
EXPAND.
WHOOOOOSH

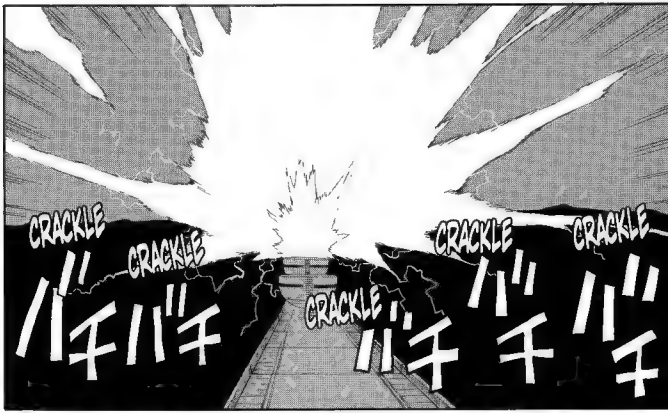
FWOOM
?!


FWOOM

FWOOM

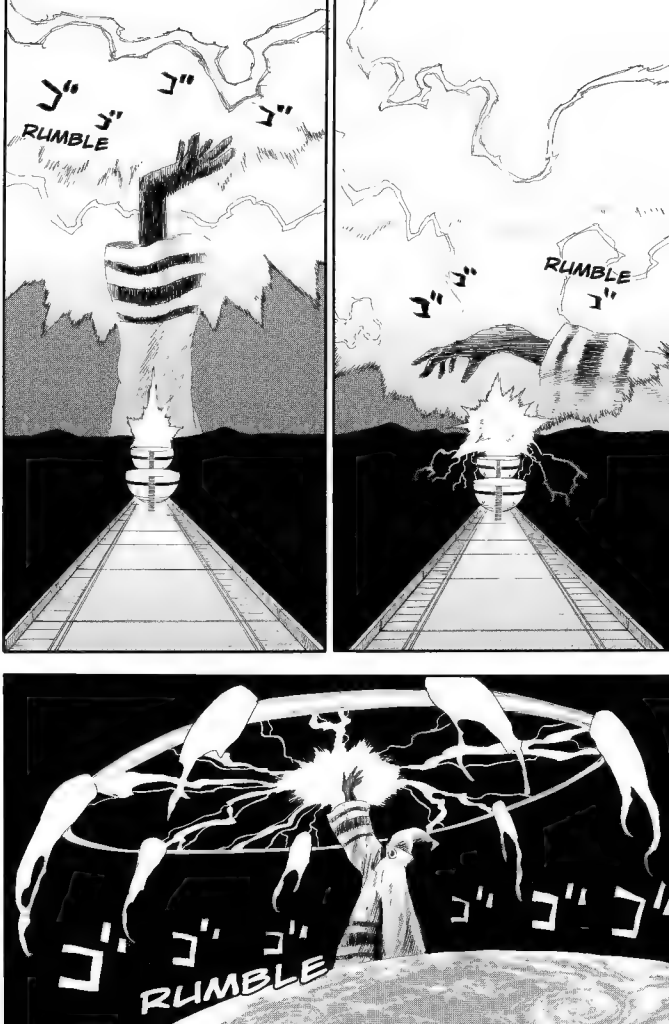
FWOOM
FWOOM
WHAT?
CIRCLE, SWALLOW THIS PLANET AND FEED OFF OF IT!
TOTAL SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION!


バチバチ
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE


CRACKLE
CRACKLE
バチバチ
CRACKLE
バチ
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
バチ
バチ

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

AAAAHH
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
I...
WON'T...
LET...
YOU...


ゴ
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RUMBLE
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RUMBLE
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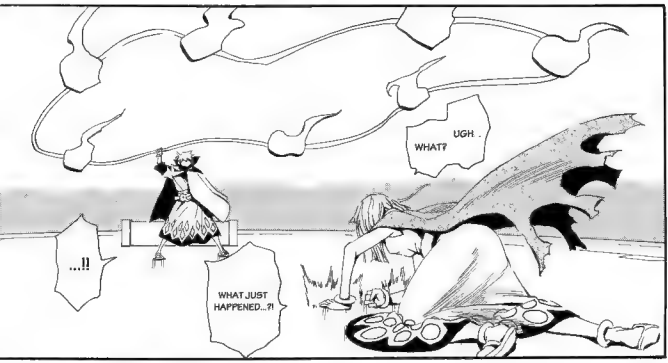
RUMBLE

Fsss


UGH
WHAT?
...!!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED...?!

YAH...
YAAAH!!
YEAAAH!!
...THIS PRES-ENCE...
THE PLANET'S SPIRIT INTER-FERED..
IT WAS FORCED IT BACK..?!
IT.

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
KLANG

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

FORTUNAAA!!
KOKOOO!!

PEOPLE WHOSE FAMILY... LOVERS... FRIENDS...
...HAD BEEN TURNED INTO REANIMATED SOLDIERS...
KLANG
...I'VE MET... ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE...!!
KLANG
SINCE THEY STARTED CALLING ME THE HERO WHO LIBERATED THE EASTERN CAPITAL...
KLANG
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

AND THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THEM... THOU-SANDS...
...I SAW MYSELF AND EAST...!!
WHEN I SAW THE REANIMATED SOLDIER OF A PARENT LEADING A CHILD BY THE HAND...

ONLY YOU!!
!!
IT WAS THEIR HAPPINESS AND THEIR COUNTLESS SMILES...!!
THAT'S WHY YOU!!
YOU DIDN'T JUST TRAMPLE...
...ALL OVER THEIR LIVES...!!

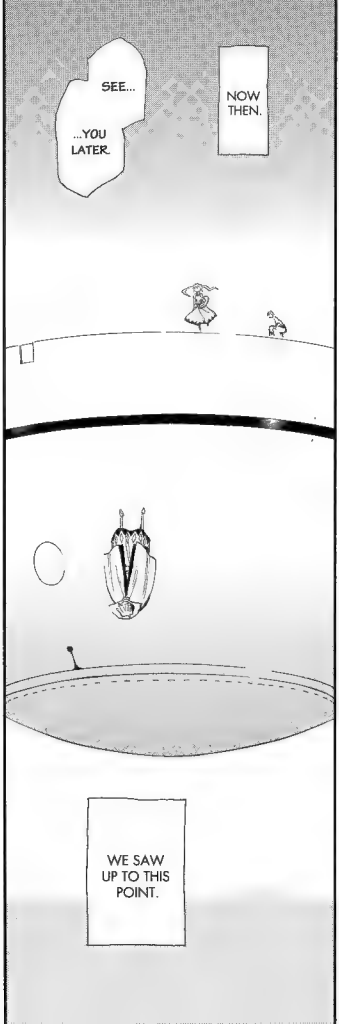
WE...

WE HIT EACH OTHER...

CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

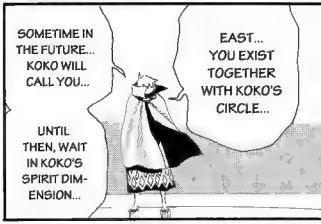
STAGGER
WUMPH
DAMN... TOO SHAL-LOW...
ALL I CUT... WAS YOUR SPIRIT BODY...
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO... DESTROY YOUR SOUL...
IT'S ENOUGH TO KILL ME...
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH THIS THIS TIME...
BESIDES, WE'LL MEET AGAIN
WHAT...
. DID YOU SAY ?
NOW THAT MY CIRCLE HAS ABSORBED YOUR SOUL...
...YOU ARE CURSED TO BE CONNECTED TO ME...
STAGGER
UNTIL YOUR WILL IS PURGED FROM IT...
...OUR RELATION-SHIP WILL BE RECREATED IN FUTURE LIVES.

I'LL BE GOING SOON, THOUGH...
SHE WENT FIRST...
...
CURSED
YOU CAN MANIFEST...
...IN ANY ERA OR CIVILIZATION..
...UNTIL I CALL YOU.
RUNE... TAKE THE CIRCLE AND WAIT IN MY SPIRIT DIMENSION...
MASTER!!
KOKO!!
WHOOOOOSH
MAST
FORTUNA...!!


SEE...
...YOU LATER.
NOW THEN.
WE SAW UP TO THIS POINT.

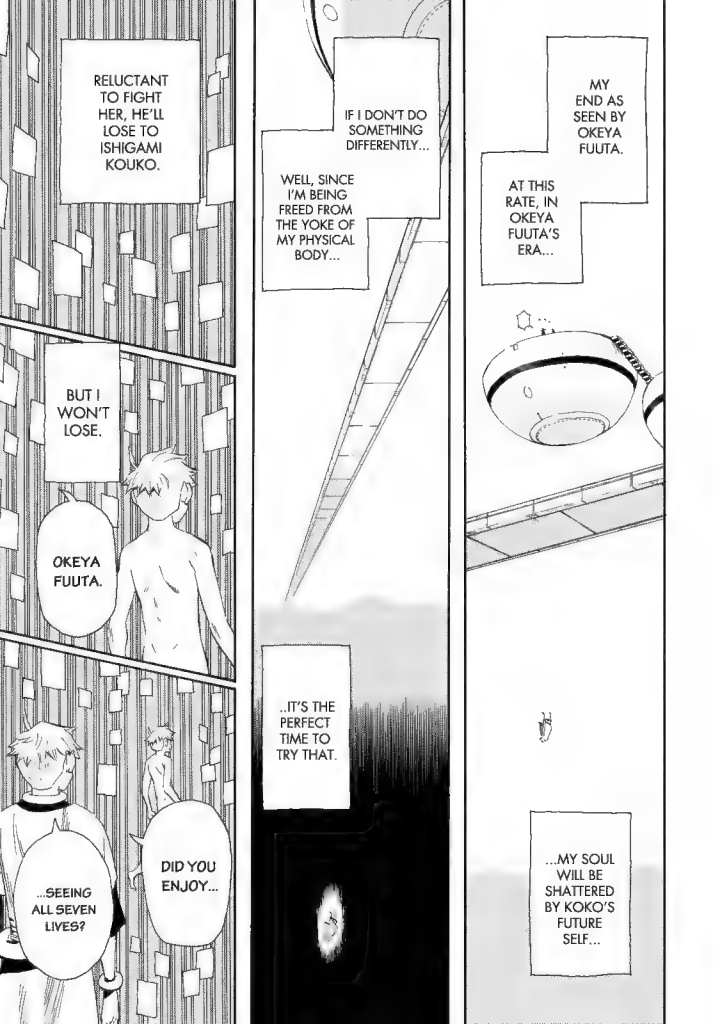
I HAVEN'T DAMAGED KOKO'S SOUL...
DON'T WORRY, EAST...

FOR-TUNA...

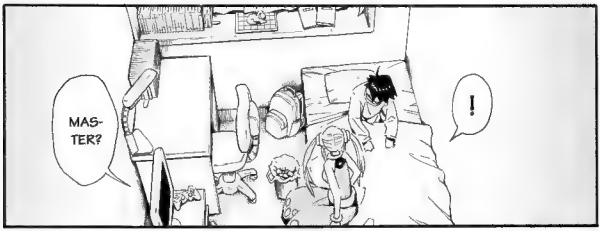

SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE... KOKO WILL CALL YOU...
UNTIL THEN, WAIT IN KOKO'S SPIRIT DIM-ENSION...
EAST... YOU EXIST TOGETHER WITH KOKO'S CIRCLE...

MAS-TER...
RUNE. THE NEXT TIME WILL BE A LONG TIME FROM NOW, BUT YOU MUST ENDURE...

I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE BETTER EXPRESSIONS THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...
WE'LL MEET AGAIN...
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, YOU TWO...


RELUCTANT TO FIGHT HER, HE'LL LOSE TO ISHIGAMI KOUKO.
BUT I WON'T LOSE.
OKEYA FUUTA.
...SEEING ALL SEVEN LIVES?
DID YOU ENJOY...
..IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO TRY THAT.
IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY...
WELL, SINCE I'M BEING FREED FROM THE YOKE OF MY PHYSICAL BODY...
MY END AS SEEN BY OKEYA FUUTA.
AT THIS RATE, IN OKEYA FUUTA'S ERA...
...MY SOUL WILL BE SHATTERED BY KOKO'S FUTURE SELF...

IT'S MY TURN.


MAS-TER?
!

GOOD MORN-ING...
...RUNE.
YES.

WHAT IS THIS?

...

WHAT'S WRONG, RUNE?
GOOD... MORN-ING...
WHAT IS THIS? WHO'S SPEAKING WITH MY VOICE?

HUH?
THAT'S MY VOICE.

!! MAS-TER?
RUNE...
YES. GOOD MORNING, RUNE.

IT'S ME, FORTUNA.
CIRCLE 41 I AM HERE !
I SUC-CESS-FULLY HIJACKED OKEYA FUUTA'S BODY.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPIER TO SEE ME AGAIN, RUNE.

WHAAAT?!
M-MASTER!! DID YOU ACTUALLY... DO...

THE IDEA CAME TO ME ON THE BRINK OF DEATH, BUT IT WORKED OUT FINE.
I SUSPECTED I COULD TAKE OKEYA FUUTA'S PLACE ONCE HIS PERSONALITY HAD BEEN AFFECTED BY SEEING MY LIFE.
IT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE WELL.
WHERE ON EARTH IS HE?
UM... WHERE IS MY MASTER ...?
WELL DONE, ME.
YOU MEAN OKEYA FUUTA.
...
I'M RIGHT HERE.

FORTUNA, YOU BASTARD!! STOP USING MY BODY!!
RUNE!! I'M RIGHT HERE!!
OKEYA FUUTA IS SCREAMING INSIDE MY HEAD.
AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT HIJACKING MY BODY?! IS THIS SOME KIND OF COMIC?! GIVE ME BACK MY BODY!! RESTORE ME TO NORMAL!!
HE'S A NOISY KID.
WITH TIME, HIS PERSONALITY WILL FADE AND DISAPPEAR.
IT'S NOT A PROB-LEM.
...
IT SHOULD ONLY TAKE ANOTHER DAY OR TWO.
...!!

DON'T! YOU'LL SUFFER AS WELL.
TCH! IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE, THEN UNTIL I DISAPPEAR, I'M GOING TO SING IDOL GROUP TKB108'S SONGS ON AN END-LESS LOOP!!
WHAT?
FUUTA, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
KA-CHAK
THUD
THUD
STOMP STOMP STOMP
KNOCK KNOCK
...IS GOING TO BE STAY-ING AT THE HOSPITAL FOR A WHILE.
YOUR MOTHER...
BREAKFAST IS IN THE REFRIGER-ATOR.
I'M GOING TO ACCOMPANY HER THERE
WHAT?!

SEE YOU LATER.
OKAY.
SEE YOU LATER, FUUTA...
I'LL BE GONE FOR A WHILE, BUT MAKE SURE YOU KEEP GOING TO SCHOOL...
SLAM

WHAT A NOISY KID.
MOM HAD HER HAND ON HER STOMACH!! I-IS IT GOING TO BE BORN SOON?! IS THE BABY INSIDE HER OKAY?!
FORTUNA!! GO AFTER THEM AND ASK THEM FOR MORE INFOR-MATION!!

SIGH... I'LL TELL YOU, THEN.
...BUT A HUMAN BEING IS ABOUT TO BE BORN!! I'LL HAVE ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER!!
IT IS RELEVANT!! I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S MY LITTLE BROTHER OR SISTER SINCE DAD WOULDN'T TELL ME...
THAT'S IRRELE-VANT.

IT'S STILL-BORN.
HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW...
...THAT?
BECAUSE I LOOKED INTO OUR FUTURE.
YOU SAW IT AS WELL THROUGH ME.
KA-CHAK
COME TO THINK OF IT... I DID... BUT IT'S HAZY...
THEN YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF FORTUN-ATE.
OTHERWISE THERE WOULD BE TWO COMPETING PER-SPECTIVES IN THE SAME CIRCLE...
...AND YOU'D BE LOOPING THROUGH AN ENDLESS HELL FOREVER.
STILL-BORN...
NO...

SHE'LL DIE.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO MOM?
...INFORMING YOU THAT AFTER A DIFFICULT LABOR, BOTH MOTHER AND CHILD DIED.
TOMORROW NIGHT, YOU'LL FACE OFF AGAINST ISHIGAMI KOUKO.
DURING THE FIGHT, YOU'LL GET A CALL FROM YOUR FATHER...
YOU'LL BE DEFEATED BY ISHIGAMI KOUKO. . ...AND DIE.
BUT WITH THE CALL, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR WILL TO FIGHT COMPLETELY.
YOU'RE ALREADY UNMOTIVATED TO FIGHT.
?
YOU JUST WATCH, THOUGH.

...ISHIGAMI KOUKO IS STILL AN INEXPERIENCED CHILD.
THERE'S NO WAY SHE'D STAND A CHANCE AGAINST MY FULL STRENGTH.
UNLIKE THE WARRIOR KOKO, WHO FOUGHT THROUGH BATTLES AGAINST REANIMATED SOLDIERS...
IF I FIGHT...
...YOU WON'T LOSE TO ISHIGAMI KOUKO.
MOM IS...!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!!
OF COURSE, BY THEN YOUR PERSONALITY WILL HAVE ALREADY DISAPPEARED.
カチャ
CLINK
BUT IF YOU LOSE THE FIGHT, YOU WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR MOTHER'S BODY.

...
WHAT ABOUT ISHIGAMI-SAN...?
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL HER?
ONCE I DO, I'LL TRANSFORM EARTH'S SPIRIT MATTER USING DOUBLE THE POWER OF TWO CIRCLES.
EVEN IF THE PLANET'S SPIRIT INTERFERES, I'LL FORCE HIM THROUGH.
YEAH.
I'D LIKE TO RECOVER THE SPIRIT CIRCLE SHE HAS.

THIS TIME I WILL BECOME THE UNIVERSE.

THE "TERRIFYING THING FORTUNA IS PLANNING."
SO THIS IS WHAT RUNE WARNED ME ABOUT.
...SO HE COULD CONSUME THE UNIVERSE AGAIN.
HE TOOK OVER MY BODY...
...UNTIL I FINISHED WATCHING THAT PAST LIFE.
.. HE'S BEEN WAITING IN THAT SPACE WITHOUT REINCARNATING .
SINCE THE MOMENT HE DIED...
AND ME, TOO...
ISHIGAMI-SAN...
MOM...
THE BABY...

WE'LL ALL BE LOST TOMOR-ROW...
WE'LL DISAP-PEAR.
THIS IS FORTUNA'S... MY FATE...

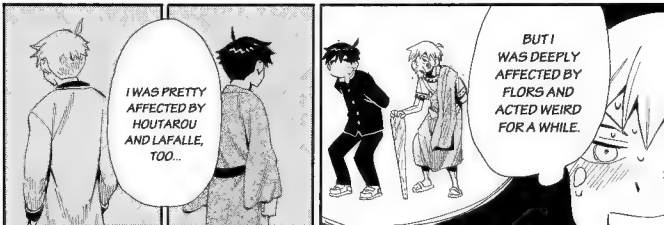
AS I FIGURED, ISHIGAMI KOUKO ISN'T COMING TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.
KILLING A PERSON IS A BIG DEAL IN THIS ERA. SHE MUST BE OFF SHARPENING HER FANGS SOME-WHERE.
MUST BE HARD FOR HER.
FUUTA.
CLATTER

GOOD MORN-ING.
GOOD MORNING, UH... NONO.
...
SHE'S THE GIRL WHO'S IN LOVE WITH OKEYA FUUTA... THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THIS IDIOT...
I CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, DAMN IT!!

FUUTA, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
NO, I DON'T KNOW...
KOKO-CHAN HASN'T COME TODAY, EITHER...

THAT'S IT, NONO!! THAT'S NOT ME!!
NAH, I FORGOT.
YOU'RE NOT HIDING THE MARK ON YOUR CHEEK TODAY?
FUUTA, YOU SEEM DIFFERENT AGAIN.

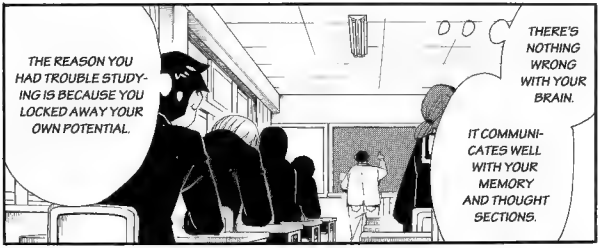
LIKE AN IMAGE CHANGE
AAAUGH! THAT'S WHAT THEY THOUGHT IT WAS?!
HOW EMBARRASSING!
CHARACTER CHANGES?
IT'S LIKE A PERSONALITY MAKEOVER.
HEY. FUUTA'S BEEN TRYING ALL KINDS OF CHARACTER CHANGES LATELY.

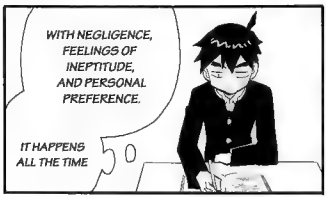

I WAS PRETTY AFFECTED BY HOUTAROU AND LAFALLE, TOO...
BUT I WAS DEEPLY AFFECTED BY FLORS AND ACTED WEIRD FOR A WHILE.

AND ISN'T THAT NORMALLY THE KIND OF THING YOU DO AFTER SUMMER VACATION?
GOOD MORNING. WHAT, DID YOU CHANGE CHARACTERS AGAIN, FUUTA? YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP, SINCE IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
EVEN UMI...

...HE'S RIGHT.
AM I REALLY JUST GOING TO DISAP-PEAR...?
WELL, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH ANYTHING WILL HAPPEN EVEN IF THEY DO FIND OUT I'VE HIJACKED HIS BODY...
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE ACTED LIKE AN IDIOT...
I SAID I CAN HEAR YOU.
WHO CARES?
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT ME.

IF YOU'RE USING MY BRAIN, HOW COME YOU UNDER-STAND THINGS I DON'T UNDER-STAND?
HMPH... SO THIS IS WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TEACHING HIM...


THE REASON YOU HAD TROUBLE STUDYING IS BECAUSE YOU LOCKED AWAY YOUR OWN POTENTIAL.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOUR BRAIN.
IT COMMUNICATES WELL WITH YOUR MEMORY AND THOUGHT SECTIONS.


WITH NEGLIGENCE, FEELINGS OF INEPTITUDE, AND PERSONAL PREFERENCE.
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME

LOCKED IT AWAY?

IT'S LUDICROUS.
ORDINARY PEOPLE...
...CHOOSE TO CONTINUE BEING ORDINARY PEOPLE.

...YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAPPY.
IF YOU'D BEEN A LITTLE MORE ORDINARY...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I LIVE FOR!!
SKRUT
ガバ

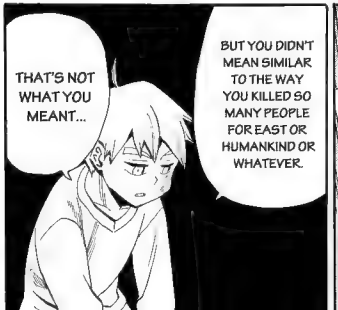
I WAS UP LATE LAST NIGHT.
SORRY, I WAS HALF-ASLEEP.

...OKEYA-KUN?

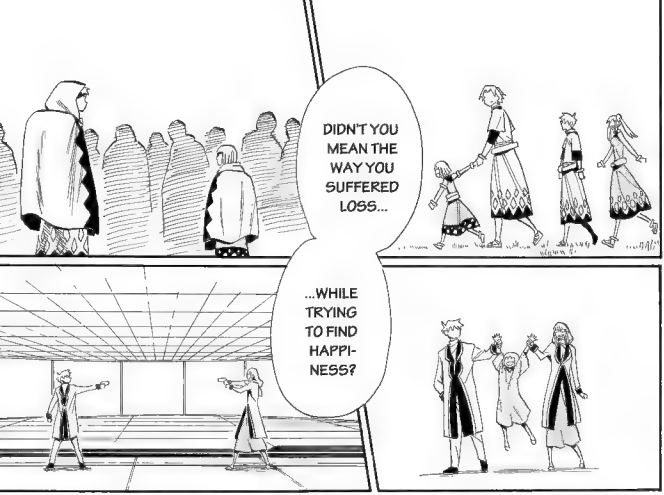
I WAS JUST... LONELY.
I UNDERSTAND BECAUSE I'M YOU. YOU... NO, I...

SHUT UP!!

...


THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU MEANT...
BUT YOU DIDN'T MEAN SIMILAR TO THE WAY YOU KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE FOR EAST OR HUMANKIND OR WHATEVER.

YOU SAID LAFALLE'S LIFE WAS "SIMILAR" TO YOURS.

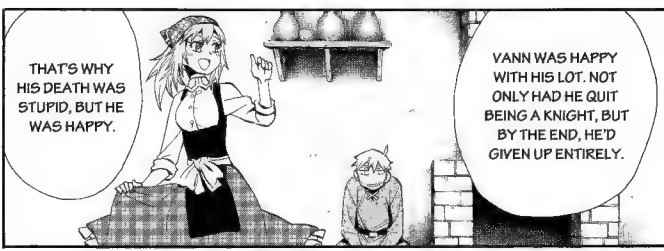

DIDN'T YOU MEAN THE WAY YOU SUFFERED LOSS...
...WHILE TRYING TO FIND HAPPI-NESS?

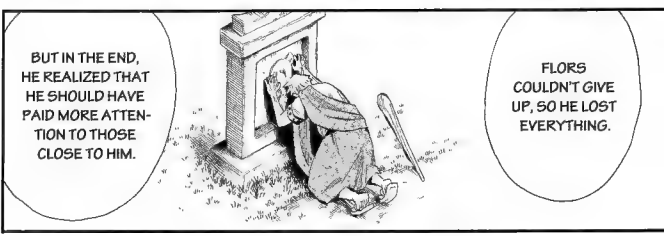
I'M LEAVING EARLY.
OKEYA-KUN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SKRUT

FORTUNA, NO MATTER WHERE YOU RUN...
...I'LL KEEP TALKING.

TCH!

...AND HAVING A LOVED ONE TAKEN FROM HIM.
FONE'S LAST MOMENTS WERE TRAGIC... BUT HE HAD TO EXPERIENCE BOTH TAKING A LOVED ONE AWAY FROM ANOTHER, LIKE YOU DID...


THAT'S WHY HIS DEATH WAS STUPID, BUT HE WAS HAPPY.
VANN WAS HAPPY WITH HIS LOT. NOT ONLY HAD HE QUIT BEING A KNIGHT, BUT BY THE END, HE'D GIVEN UP ENTIRELY.


BUT IN THE END, HE REALIZED THAT HE SHOULD HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THOSE CLOSE TO HIM.
FLORS COULDN'T GIVE UP, SO HE LOST EVERYTHING.

HE FOUND SATISFACTION IN WORKING HARD TO SUPPORT HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE EVEN WANTED TO LIVE FOR ANOTHER AGAIN.
HOUTAROU ENJOYED HIS JOB OF SHARPENING SWORDS. HE WAS UNTROUBLED BY OBSESSION.
HE THOUGHT THAT THIS TIME, HE'D LIVE FOR SOMEONE, FOR HUMANITY... AND FOUND HIMSELF IN OPPOSITION WITH LAPIS AGAIN.
LAFALLE TRIED TO LIVE FOR HIS DAUGHTER, BUT HE BECAME TOO OBSESSED.
SHE WAS TROUBLED BY HOW TO LIVE WITH WHAT SHE LOVED. THAT'S WHY SHE DECIDED TO BECOME SOMEONE WHO WASN'T ACADEMICALLY GIFTED NEXT.
FUUKO WAS OBSESSED WITH HER JOB AS A GEOLOGIST, BUT SHE ENJOYED IT. SHE WASN'T UNHAPPY, BUT SHE DID SUFFER SOME.

ROLL
イライラ IRE IRE

I STRUGGLE WITH MY STUDIES, AND I'M NOT GREAT AT SPORTS.
BUT I HAVE MY FRIENDS, AND I'M HAPPY FOR NOW. THAT'S MY WAY OF LIFE.

AND WHEN I DIE, I'LL PROBABLY...
...REALIZE SOMETHING AGAIN.

I'M AN ORDINARY PERSON...
...BUT EVEN THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY PERSON HAS GREAT MEANING FOR THE SOUL.
EVERY-THING IS A PART OF AN IMPORTANT JOURNEY.
IT'S ALL PART OF MY LIFE.

GO ON A JOURNEY.
ONE THAT WILL LEAD TO ME.
GIVE ME BACK MY BODY.
YOUR LIFE HAS ENDED.

SMASH

LURCH

GRAB

IF I DON'T FIGHT, ISHIGAMI KOUKO WILL SHATTER YOUR SOUL, AND BOTH YOU AND I WILL DISAPPEAR!!
JUST SHUT UP!!
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU UNDER-STAND, OKEYA FUUTA!!

SNIFFLE
RUNE!!
I'M YOUR MASTER!!
THIS IS MY MASTER'S PRECIOUS...
FORTUNA-SAMA...

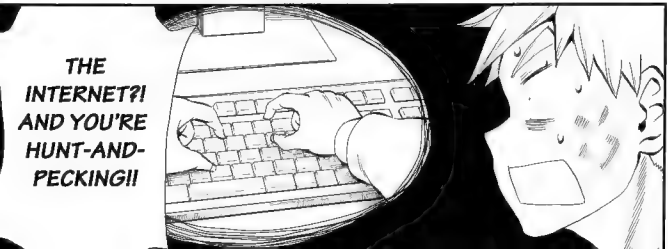
WHAT'S WRONG, FORTUNA?
...!!
YOU SEEM FAR MORE HUMAN NOW THAN YOU DID WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE.

KA-CHAK
ガチャ
IT'S ABOUT TODAY.
FUUTA, DO YOU HAVE A SECOND?

OKAY, I'M OFF.
SEE YOU LATER.
I'M GOING TO VISIT MOM IN THE HOSPITAL RIGHT AFTER WORK.
I'M GIVING YOU THIS PHONE JUST IN CASE.

I HAVE SCHOOL.
YOU'RE NOT PUTTING ON MY UNIFORM?
I CHECKED OUT THE SCHOOL YESTERDAY--THAT WAS SUFFICIENT.
THEN GO TO THE HOSPITAL AND SEE HOW MOM'S DOING.
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO TRY.
...SOME-THING YOU WANT TO TRY?
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO UNTIL TONIGHT'S FIGHT.

THE INTERNET.
Google
CIRCLE-42
I AM HERE-2


THE INTERNET?! I AND YOU'RE HUNT-AND-PECKING!!

YEAH, BUT STILL...
WHO CARES HOW I TYPE?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, ANYWAY?
WHAT A CHAOTIC MESS OF INFOR-MATION.
I'M LOSING BRAIN CELLS JUST LOOKING AT IT.

...
CLICK
CLICK

YOU'RE SO STUDIOUS...

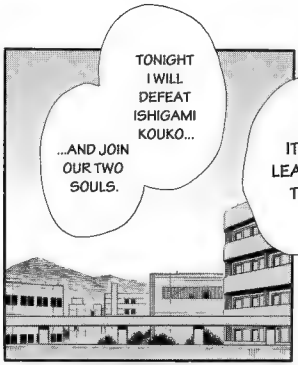
FOR ME, THIS IS AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION. I'M CURIOUS.
I'M RE-SEARCHING HISTORY.

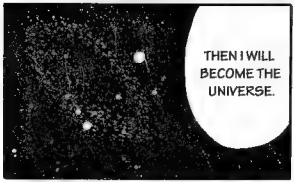
ITS SPACE-TIME COORDINATES ARE HIGHER THAN THIS AGE'S. IT'S IN THE FUTURE...
...IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT THERE'S NO INFORMATION ON LAFALLE'S AGE.

CLICK CLICK
TIME IS LIKE A RIVER.
I DON'T GET HOW MY PAST LIVES CAN BE IN THE FUTURE AND YOUR FUTURE LIVES CAN BE IN THE PAST.
AND YOUR AGE IS EVEN FURTHER IN THE FUTURE THAN LAFALLE'S...
ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, YOU'LL REALIZE IT'S POINTLESS TO WORRY ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SOULS IN A SINGLE AGE.
EVERYTHING EXISTS SIMULTANEOUSLY
WE CAN WALK UP OR DOWNSTREAM.
WHEN WE DIE, OUR SOULS EXIT THE RIVER THAT IS THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
BECAUSE THEIR SOULS ARE TRAPPED IN HALF-DEAD BODIES...
...THEY'RE UNABLE TO REINCARNATE, AND HUMANITY WILL GO EXTINCT?
THIS IS THE CENTER OF EXTINCTION...
THEN LAFALLE...
! THE NUMBER OF SOULS IS POINTLESS...?

WHAT A USELESS ASSUMP-TION.
Geegle
HA.
...
THE BIRTHRATE DECREASED SIMPLY BECAUSE SOULS DIDN'T FAVOR THAT ERA.
CHANGES IN POPULATION AREN'T THAT UNUSUAL.
REINCAR-NATION IS A MAGNIFICENT PROCESS.
PLANTS AND ANIMALS CAN BE REINCARNATED AS OTHER SPECIES SUCH AS HUMANS...
...AND THE SAME PERSON CAN EVEN EXIST IN THE SAME AGE.

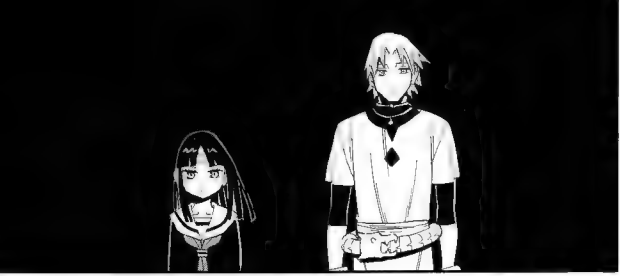
YOUR... MY LIFE...
...WASN'T POINTLESS, LAFALLE!!
BUT THE ACT OF FREEING THE TRAPPED SOULS...
...WASN'T POINTLESS.
SKRUT
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WASN'T POINTLESS.
LAFALLE, OKEYA FUUTA...
HMPH. THAT'S ALL?
WHAT A BORING HISTORY.


TONIGHT I WILL DEFEAT ISHIGAMI KOUKO...
...AND JOIN OUR TWO SOULS.
IT ALL LEADS TO THIS.


THEN I WILL BECOME THE UNIVERSE.

I WILL EVEN REBUILD THE ALL THE PASTS...
...THAT YOU ENJOYED.

LET'S GO, RUNE.
IT'S TIME FOR OUR REUNION.



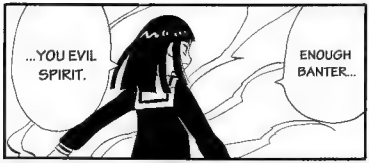
...!! OKEYA-KUN...?
WERE YOU AFFECTED BY SEEING FORTUNA'S PAST LIFE...?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
KOKO... RATHER, ISHIGAMI KOUKO.

I AM FORTUNA.
NO, I HIJACKED HIS BODY.

FOR-TUNA ...!!
HOW COULD YOU...?
!!
...

HE'S INSIDE MY HEAD, BUT HE'LL DISAPPEAR SOON ENOUGH.
HE'S BEEN GETTING PRETTY QUIET.
WHAT HAPPENED TO OKEYA-KUN'S PERSONALITY?
YESTERDAY HE EVEN TRIED TO LECTURE ME.
HA, HA.
HE HAD A LOT MORE ENERGY UNTIL THIS MORNING.
HE'S JUST ACTING TOUGH.
IF YOU WANT, I CAN LECTURE YOU AGAIN.
...I'M STILL HERE.
BUT...
...THERE'S NO NEED TO RESTORE HIM.
...I SEE.

KILLING YOU WILL BE EASIER THAN KILLING OKEYA-KUN.
AFTER ALL, I'M GOING TO KILL YOU HERE.
HOW CONVEN-IENT.


...YOU EVIL SPIRIT.
ENOUGH BANTER...

YOU'RE SOMETHING SIMILAR AS WELL.

YOU'RE NO FUN. CONSIDERING OUR RELATION-SHIP...
...DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY TO ME?

ARE YOU SURE YOUR PERSON-ALITY...
...HASN'T MIXED WITH KOKO'S AND BECOME MUDDLED?
I'M ME.
...SHUT UP.
FOR-TUNA.
EAST.
TELL ME. WHY...
WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING NOW? ... WHY?

...FOR-TUNA.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LONELY...
...DOES IT MATTER?
YOU'RE TRAPPED AS WELL, FORTUNA.
YOUR HAPPINESS EXISTS ONLY IN THE PAST.
WHAT I DESIRE LIES AHEAD OF ME!!
SHUT UP, OKEYA FUUTA!!
I'LL CON-SUME THE UNIVERSE !!
I'LL CRAM THE PLANET'S SPIRIT INSIDE THEM...
I'LL BEAT ISHIGAMI KOKO!!
AND I'LL BECOME THE NEW UNIVERSE!!
...AND CONSUME THE EARTH!!
I'LL ACQUIRE TWO CIRCLES!!

YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO RECAPTURE THE PAST BY RECREATING IT.
...WHAT WILL YOU DO ONCE YOU'VE BECOME THAT?
COME, ISHIGAMI KOUKO!!
FWOOM
SHUT UP!! WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
JUST LIKE YOU WANTED, LET'S SETTLE THIS!!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME...
INDEED!
...BRAT!!
I'LL END YOUR LIFE!!

CLANG
4
III

CLANG
五

HAAAA!!
HUH --?!

I'M BEING OVER-POWERED ...?!
BY A CHILD ...?!
CLANG
CLANG

THERE'S NO WAY HIS BODY CAN BEAT MINE WHEN I RUN EVERY DAY!!
OUR BODIES ARE THE SAME AGE!!
OKEYA-KUN HARDLY EVER EXERCISES!!

WHAAAAT?!
I SEE NOW!
...BUT WITHOUT THAT HANDICAP, I CAN KILL YOU... IN AN INSTANT!!
LAST TIME I WAS BEATEN BECAUSE I WAS EXHAUSTED FROM FIGHTING THOUSANDS OF REANIMATED SOLDIERS...
WHA---?

YOU SHOULD USE YOUR WEAPON WITH MORE CARE.
BOY, YOU SUCK. PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
SWITCH WITH ME!! I'LL KILL HER!!

IS THERE ANY WAY TO STOP THEM...?
HMMM
CAN'T THEY SORT THIS OUT AMICABLY ...?
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT LAPIS...

CLANG
CLANG
...BECAUSE YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED THE VALUE OF THE MIND AND BODY!!
GIVE UP!! YOU LOST...
I'LL SHOW YOU THE SPIRITUAL POWER OF A GENIUS SOUL!!
YOU MATERIAL IDEOLO-GIST!!
HAAAA!!
CLANG
YAAAH!!

HUFF
HUFF
YOU'RE..
..TOUGH.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SHUT.
.UP
VMM
UGH.
WHY NOW...?
VMM
...WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER IT?
I'LL WAIT.
HUFF
HUFF
...SHE'S PREPARED FOR A LONG BATTLE, HUH? THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STAMINA PUTS ME AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE...
...BUT I NEED TIME TO CATCH MY BREATH...
VMM
VMM
DAMN..
..IT'S HIS FATHER?.. OH, RIGHT
HE'S CALLING ABOUT THE STILLBIRTH AND HIS MOTHER'S DEATH..
DAD

HE...
HELL--
THE BABY WAS BORN!!
A HEALTHY BABY WAS BORN!!
WHERE ARE YOU? COME HERE QUICKLY!!
WHAT?
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE I WANTED TO SURPRISE YOU...
...BUT IT'S TWINS!!
...?!
BORN... WHAT? TWINS... HUH? WHAAAT?!
DAD
CALL SEEK
IN CALL

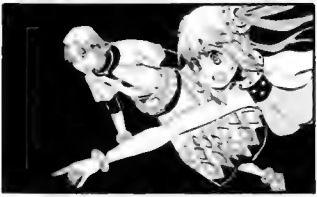
...
SATOSHI MIZUKAMI

...?

WHAT'S WRONG, FORTUNA? WHAT--
HEY, FUUTA?
WHAT'S WRONG?
MASTER ...?
CIRCLE 43
I AM HERE 3

WHAT... IS GOING ON...?
MOM HAD AN EASY DELIVERY AND IS DOING WELL, TOO.
IN ANY CASE, COME QUICKLY!! THE BABIES ARE CUTE!!
BEEP
...BUT IF YOU'RE FINISHED, LET'S RESUME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAS YOU DUMB-FOUNDED...
HURRY!!
FOR... FOR-TUNA!! THE HOSPITAL!!

TURN
DASH
HEY!
?!
I NEED TO CONFIRM WHAT'S HAPPENED ...!!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!!
YOU'RE RUNNING, FORTUNA?!
WAIT!!
KOUKO, WAIT HERE.
EAST!! RUNE!!
I-I'M GOING, TOO!!
I'M CURIOUS AS WELL. LET'S GO AFTER HIM.



OVER HERE!!
FUUTA!!

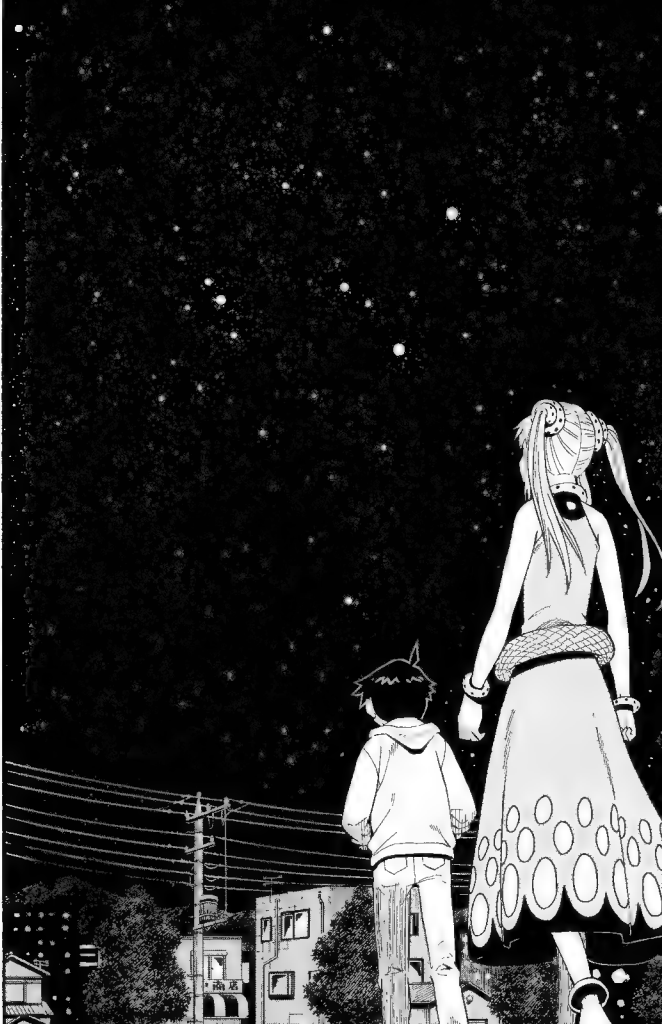
THE CHILD WAS BORN SAFELY ...?!
MOM AND THE BABIES ARE STILL IN THE DELIVERY ROOM.
DID YOU RUN HERE?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
IN THE LIFE OF OKEYA FUUTA I SAW, BOTH THE MOTHER AND CHILD DIED...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

THEY'RE TWINS, A BOY AND A GIRL.
WE WANTED TO NAME THEM ONCE WE SAW THEIR FACES.
WHAT-EVER CAME TO MIND FIRST
THE GIRL IS REIKA.
THE BOY IS SHINJI.
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ASH...!!
KAJIRO... THAT'S KAJIRO...
YEAH, THAT'S REI... THAT GIRL IS REI.
...REI...? ISN'T THAT REI...?

MASTER...
FLAMBE...

WHAT?
HIS NAME...
HMM... SHINICHI, HUH?
WHY NOT? OKEYA REIKA AND OKEYA SHINICHI.
HE WON'T LIKE HAVING A CHARACTER THAT MEANS "TWO" OR "SECOND" IN HIS NAME.
...CALL SHINJI "SHINICHI" INSTEAD.
WHAT? FUUTA, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
OH?
WELL... I'VE GOT SOME-THING TO DO.


商店

DO YOU REMEMBER?
THE DAY WE FOUND KOKO WAS COLD LIKE TODAY, TOO.
THERE WASN'T A CLOUD IN THE SKY THAT NIGHT, EITHER. YOU COULD SEE THE STARS CLEARLY.
FORTUNA SAID NOT TO CALL HER REI, BUT KOKO INSTEAD.
HE CHANGED HER NAME.
FOR FORUNA, REI...
...WAS HIS MASTER ALONE. IT WAS AN IMPORTANT NAME TO HIM.
...I DON'T REMEMBER... WHAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO.

I REMEMBER IT...
...LIKE IT WAS JUST YESTERDAY, TOO.
I SAID I DON'T REMEMBER...
NOT "TOO."
YOU SAID...
FORTUNA...
...THAT THE BABY WOULD BE STILL-BORN, AND MOM WOULD DIE, TOO.
AND...
...THAT I'D NEVER SEE REI AGAIN.
THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS OVER. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO LEARN.
YOU SAID THAT.

BUT...
...I GOT TO SEE HER AGAIN.

SO WHAT?
I'M NOT A GOD YET.
I CAN BE WRONG SOME-TIMES.

...THIS WAY.

SURE.
THIS TIME.

WE'LL SETTLE THIS HERE.
WE'RE FAR AWAY FROM WHERE WE WERE EARLIER.
THIS TIME...
...UNTIL THE END.

CLANG

?!

HE'S MORE DETER-MINED THAN BEFORE!!
TANG
TANG
TANG
WHAT HAP-PENED ...?!
WHY ARE YOU STILL FIGHTING...
...FOR-TUNA?
FOR-TUNA, STOP!!
HOW CAN YOU KEEP FIGHTING AFTER SEEING THAT?!
MASTER REI AND FLAMBE... EAST, RUNE, AND KOKO...
WE CAN TRY AGAIN WITH THEM IN THIS WORLD!!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRY AGAIN.
NOT ME.
MASTER!! KOKO-CHAN!!
PLEASE STOP!!
!! RU ...!!

THWOOM

GRAB
HE TOOK MY ARM'S SPIRIT AND MY CIRCLE...!!
HE GOT ME ...!!

SHRINK
ISHI-GAMI-SAN!!
?!
WHY IS IT CLOSING?
H-HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
...GOING TO DISAP-PEAR?!
AM I...
THIS IS THE END.

...EVEN THOUGH RUNE SCREAMED FOR US TO STOP...
I DIDN'T FEEL ANY-THING...
...I JUST TOOK YOUR ARM.
THAT'S WHY...
KOKO-CHAN...
NO... BECAUSE OF ME...
RUNE...
...EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR.
THOUGH EITHER WAY...
SWALLOW AND FEED UPON THIS PLANET!!
FWOOM
SPIRIT CIRCLE!! SPIRIT MATTER CONVERSION!! TWIN RINGS!!

FWOOM
GOODBYE, WORLD!!

GRAB
DAMN IT...!!

GRAB
GRAB
GRAB
...DISAP-PEAR-ING!!
I'M NOT...

GUYS...
!!
HEAVE, HO!!

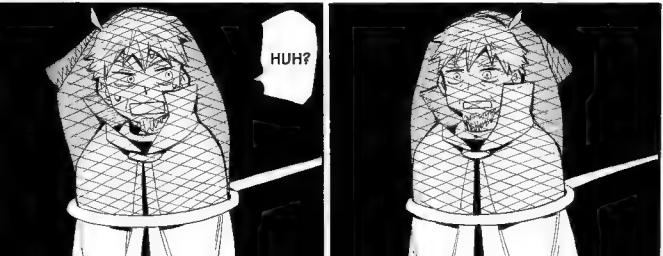
SHUT UP!!
THAT'S NOT KOKO!!

MASTER!!
WE FINALLY GOT TO SEE KOKO-CHAN AGAIN!!

WHACK
THERE!!
WHAT?
THAT'S...
HUH?
IT WIDENED?!
FWOOM
GIVE ME THAT!!
WHOA!

THIS?!
...AREN'T MY MASTER OR FLAMBE!!
AND THOSE CHILDREN...
OKEYA FUUTA ISN'T ME!
EVERY-THING!!
SO EVERY-THING!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF...
FORTUNAAA!!

...YOU!!
SHOOMP


HUH?

WHAT?!
?!
SHIIING

THAT'S .

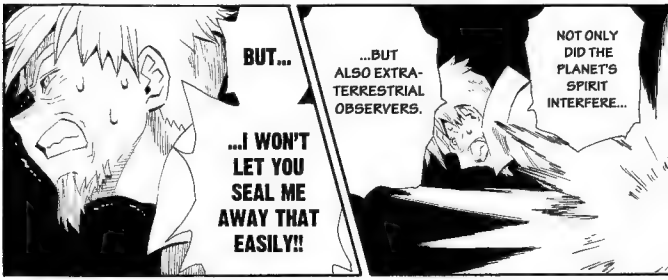
SOME ALIENS GAVE ME THIS NET IN A PREVI-OUS LIFE...
...SO THAT I COULD DEFEAT YOU.
OKEYA...
IT'S A SOUL CATCHER!!
FUUTAAA!!

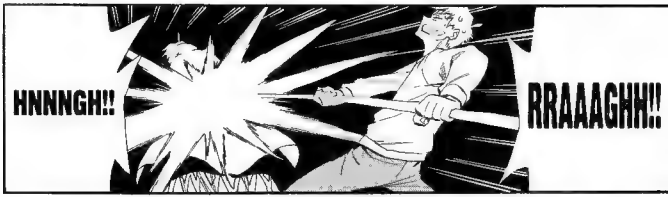
CIRCLE 44
I AM HERE 4
WHO SHOULD I GIVE THE SOUL CATCHER TO?
THINK IT SHOULD BE THE INCARNATION OF KOKO THE HERO?
SHOULDN'T IT BE FORTUNA'S INCARNATION?
IF WE MAKE HER REMEMBER AN OBSERVATION POINT IN HER FUTURE LIFE AT THAT TIME, WE CAN EXTRACT IT AND BREAK THE CONSTRAINTS.
KOKO'S INCARNATION WILL HAVE HER HANDS FULL AT A CRITICAL MOMENT WHEN SHE'S FIGHTING AN INCARNATION HIJACKED BY FORTUNA.
?!
A BUG CATCHING NET?
OKAY, THEN.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.

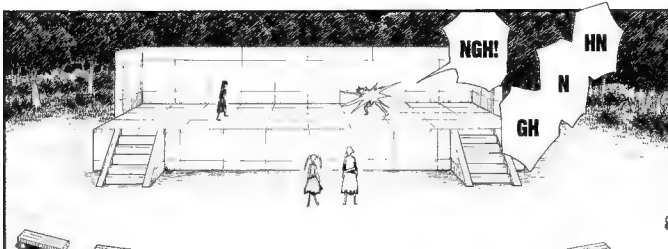
SHIIIN
WHAT?!
G
N
ALIENS FROM A PREVIOUS LIFE...
...GAVE ME THIS BUG-CATCHING NET SO I COULD DEFEAT YOU!

SHIIING
WHAT IS THIS?!
FUUTAAA!!
OKEYA...
A SOUL CATCHER!!

GIVE ME BACK MY BODY!!
FOR-TUNAAA!!


BUT...
...I WON'T LET YOU SEAL ME AWAY THAT EASILY!!
...BUT ALSO EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL OBSERVERS.
NOT ONLY DID THE PLANET'S SPIRIT INTERFERE...


HNNNGH!!
RRAAAGHH!!


NGH!
HN
N
GH

MAS-
TER...
FOR-
TUNA...
WHERE IS HE BEING PULLED FROM...?!
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPEN-ING?
HGN!
HNNNGH!
NGH!
YANK
?!
I'M STRONGER THAN YOU...
HA... TOO BAD!
DAMN... HE'S TOO STRONG!!

HEAVE HO!!

YOU--!! WHY ARE YOU HELPING OKEYA FUUTA...?!
!! THAT'S IT...
IT'S THE BABIES!
BABIES ARE CHANGING MY FATE AGAIN...!!

THOSE BABIES AREN'T MASTER REI OR FLAMBE!!
YOU'RE NOT OKEYA FUUTA, EITHER!!
DON'T LOSE YOUR-SELVES, SPIRITS!!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONES WHO CAN START OVER!!

I'M NOT STARTING OVER. EVERYTHING STARTS NOW.
I AM BOTH FONE AND OKEYA FUUTA.

AND I'M NOT STARTING OVER. I'M JUST GET-TING STARTED.
I'M VANN, BUT I'M ALSO OKEYA FUUTA.

I'M NOT STARTING OVER. I'M STARTING NOW.
I AM FLORS AND OKEYA FUUTA.

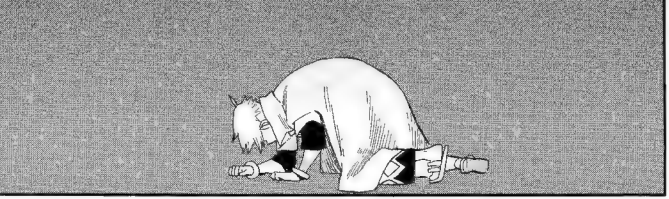
I'M NOT STARTING OVER. I'M STARTING NOW.
I'M HOUTAROU AND OKEYA FUUTA.

I'M NOT STARTING OVER. I'M STARTING NOW.
I AM LAFALLE AND OKEYA FUUTA.
I'M NOT STARTING OVER. I'M STARTING ANEW FROM NOW!!
I'M OKETANI FUUKO AND OKEYA FUUTA.
...WHY THE BABIES THAT WERE SUPPOSED TO DIE... WHY THE SOULS OF MASTER REI AND FLAMBE WERE BORN WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS!!
FORTUNA!! YOU SHOULD KNOW...
RAAAGG GHHH!!!
LIKE HELL I DO!!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAME HERE!!
SHUT UP!!
MASTER REI CURED YOU WHILE YOU WERE INSIDE ME!!
FLAMBE GRANTED YOU AND ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAL HUMANITY!!

TO SEE YOU!! BOTH OF THEM!!
SHUT UP!!

YOU ASKED THAT YOUR BROTHER...
...NOT HAVE CHARACTERS MEANING "TWO" OR "SECOND" IN HIS NAME.
THE HEALING AND THEIR LIVES...
...HAVE ALREADY BEGUN.
FOR US AND FOR EVERY-ONE.
FOR EACH OTHER...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEARCH FOR IT.
EVERY-THING IS RIGHT HERE.

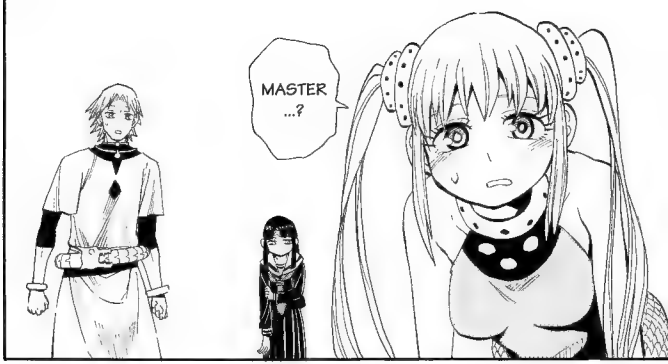


DON'T CRY.

THERE'S NOTHING...
...TO BE SAD ABOUT.
...

FWISH

MASTER!!

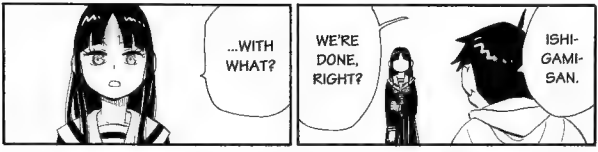

MASTER ...?

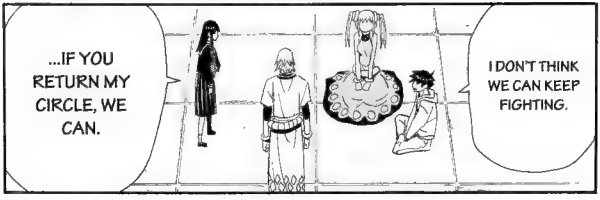
SORRY... ...FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.
...GOOD MORNING, RUNE.

...YOU'RE BACK.
OKEYA-KUN...
WAAAH!!
MAS...
THERE WAS A TUG OF WAR INSIDE ME.
WHERE IS FORTUNA ...?
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
ONCE THINGS CALM DOWN...
...HE'LL RETURN TO THE CYCLE AGAIN.
BUT HE DIDN'T DISAPPEAR, AND HE WON'T BE FROZEN FOREVER.
I SEALED AWAY FORTUNA WITH THE SOUL CATCHER.

HE'LL BE REBORN AS FONE...
...AND EVENTUALLY BECOME ME.
SO IN MANY WAYS...
...HE'S RIGHT HERE.

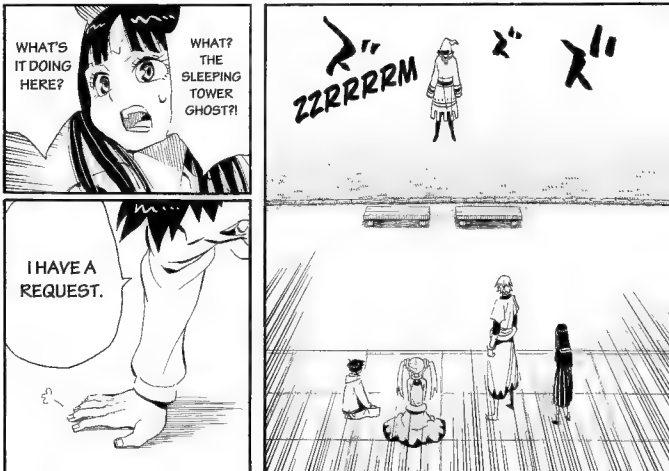
I SEE.
FOR-TUNA...


ISHI-GAMI-SAN.
WE'RE DONE, RIGHT?
...WITH WHAT?


I DON'T THINK WE CAN KEEP FIGHTING.
...IF YOU RETURN MY CIRCLE, WE CAN.

...BUT I HAVEN'T LOST MY WILL TO FIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SATISFIED YOU AND FORTUNA ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU JUST SIT THERE ON THE GROUND...
?! HOW?!
IT'S MADE OF SPIRIT MATTER!
I'M GOING TO DISPOSE OF IT.
I CAN'T RETURN YOUR SPIRIT CIRCLE.
...PRO-MISE?
I'LL KEEP MY PRO-MISE.
RUNE, THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
WHAT? RELEASE ME?
I'LL RELEASE YOU.
EAST, SORRY FOR NOT LETTING YOU GO UNTIL NOW.

FWISH
SPACIFICA.


WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?
WHAT? THE SLEEPING TOWER GHOST?!
I HAVE A REQUEST.
ZZRRRRM

IN EXCHANGE, PLEASE ALLOW EAST AND RUNE TO BE REBORN AS ORDINARY HUMANS.
I'LL GIVE YOU BOTH OF THE SPIRIT CIRCLES.

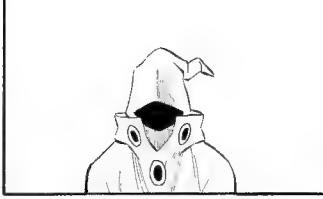
PLEASE...
...GOD OF THE EARTH.
I'M NOT A GOD.
BUT IT'S POSSIBLE.
I'LL RESTORE THEIR SPIRITS...
...AND ARRANGE FOR THEIR REBIRTHS.
DO THEY HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS?
WE CAN RETURN...
...TO THE CYCLE?
I...
...CAN BE HUMAN?
IS THAT...
I HAVE A CONDITION!!

I WANT TO BE BORN AS MY MASTER AND KOKO-CHAN'S CHILD!!

PLEASE!!

I-I'LL CONSENT UNDER THE SAME CONDITION AS WELL!!
...
は。
GASP

VERY WELL.



ZSSSH

WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT, I CAN'T TAKE THEM.
YOU MUST WILLINGLY TRANSFER THE CIRCLES TO ME.
YOU HAVE MY CONSENT!!
HUH? OH.

YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!
HEY... EAST!! RUNE!!
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO SAY GOODBYE YET...
IT'S TOO SUDDEN...

THIS ISN'T GOODBYE.
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

PLAY NICE, YOU TWO.
DAD AND MOM.

THANK YOU.

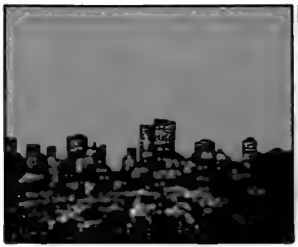
I'M SORRY
I WAS SO ANGRY.
I...
I'M SORRY.
I KEPT FIGHTING.

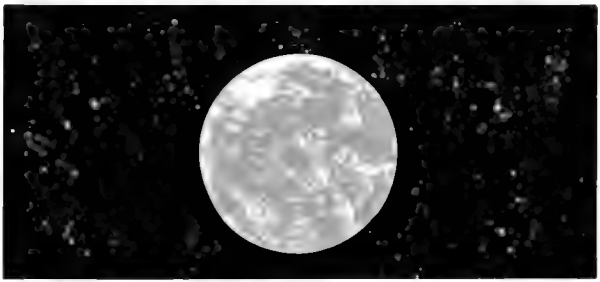
HNN...
NGGH...
WAAAH...

WAAAA AHHH!
WAAAH!

DON'T CRY, SELF.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SAD ABOUT.
EAST AND RUNE WERE THE ONLY ONES...
...WHO ALWAYS STAYED MY FRIENDS.

Spirit Circle 45/presented by Satoshi Mizukami





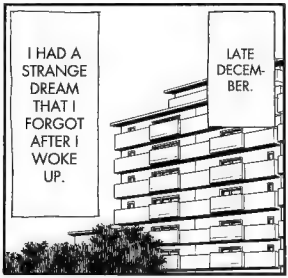
I'VE NEVER TAKEN ON SUCH A LARGE-SCALE PROJECT BEFORE.
I ENJOYED MYSELF.
WELL DONE, EVERY-ONE.
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH. THANK YOU.

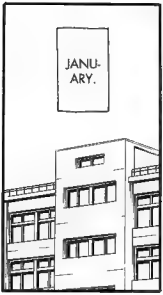
IT WAS A VALUABLE EXPERI-ENCE.
I GAINED PLENTY OF CONNEC-TIONS, TOO.
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.
AT LEAST THIS MUCH WAS NECES-SARY. OUR COMPATIBIL-ITY...

NOW THEN... NEXT WE MUST LOOK AFTER THE PLANET DESTROYER WITH SUPERNATURAL POWERS IN THE 32ND CENTURY OF UNIVERSE 92,300,000,000...
HE SHOULD BE REINCARNATED ABOUT 49 MORE TIMES BEFORE BEING RETURNED.
COME TO THINK OF IT, UNIVERSE 97,000,000,000'S 16TH CENTURY...
...MIXED-RACE SCHOLAR/MONK WAS ONE OF YOURS, WASN'T HE?
HE GAVE MY WHITE GOD BOY A GOOD EXPERIENCE.
INDEED.
HE SHOULD BE REINCARNATED 42 MORE TIMES.
YOU TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF THEM.
THAT SHOULD BE ALL FOR NOW...
THANK YOU.

HUH...?
FANK YEW...

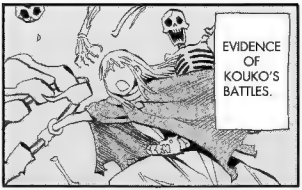
SEVERAL DAYS AFTER MY FINAL BATTLE AGAINST ISHIGAMI-SAN...
...THE MARK ON MY CHEEK DISAP-PEARED.


I HAD A STRANGE DREAM THAT I FORGOT AFTER I WOKE UP.
LATE DECEM-BER.


JANU-ARY.

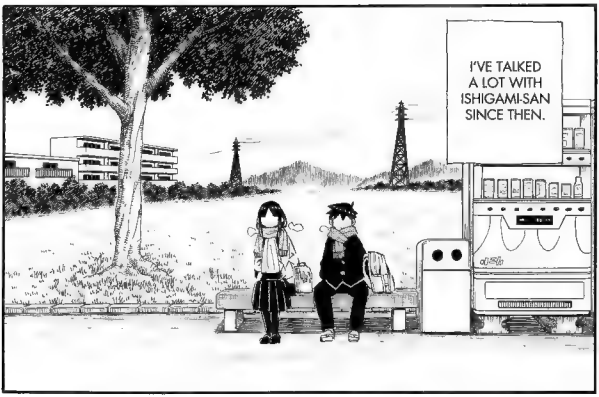
HAD I BEEN FORGIVEN?

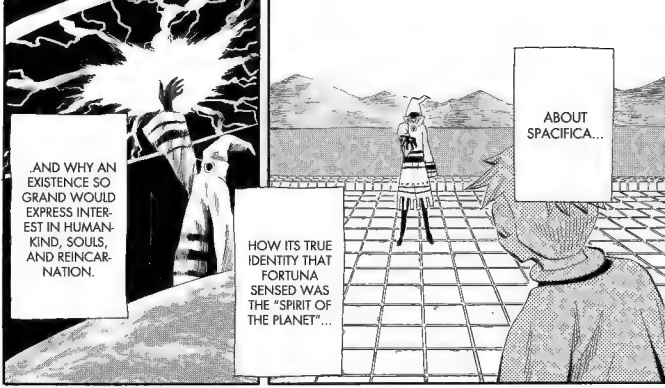
THE CURSED MARK.
THE ONE GIVEN TO ME BY ISHIGAMI-SAN'S PAST LIFE.

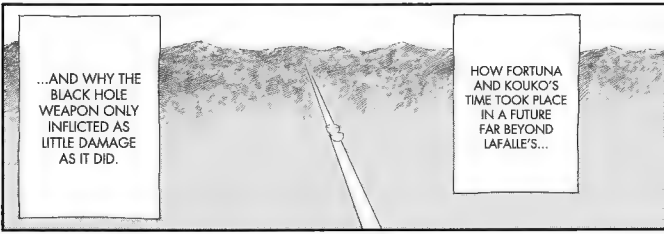

EVIDENCE OF KOUKO'S BATTLES.

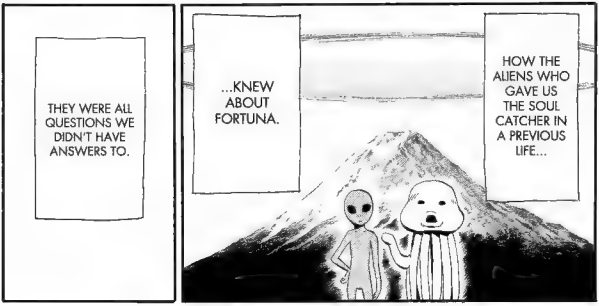
WHEN RUNE AND EAST LEFT US...
...PERHAPS HER WARRIOR SPIRIT WAS BROKEN.

...THE SCAR ON ISHIGAMI-SAN'S FOREHEAD HAD DISAP-PEARED, TOO
BY THE END OF WINTER BREAK .


I'VE TALKED A LOT WITH ISHIGAMI-SAN SINCE THEN.


...AND WHY AN EXISTENCE SO GRAND WOULD EXPRESS INTEREST IN HUMANKIND, SOULS, AND REINCARNATION.
HOW ITS TRUE IDENTITY THAT FORTUNA SENSED WAS THE "SPIRIT OF THE PLANET"...
ABOUT SPACIFICA...


...AND WHY THE BLACK HOLE WEAPON ONLY INFLICTED AS LITTLE DAMAGE AS IT DID.
HOW FORTUNA AND KOUKO'S TIME TOOK PLACE IN A FUTURE FAR BEYOND LAFALLE'S...


THEY WERE ALL QUESTIONS WE DIDN'T HAVE ANSWERS TO.
...KNEW ABOUT FORTUNA.
HOW THE ALIENS WHO GAVE US THE SOUL CATCHER IN A PREVIOUS LIFE...

I WANT TO BE BORN AS MY MASTER AND KOKO-CHAN'S CHILD!!
PROBABLY ALREADY REINCAR-NATED...
...IN A PARALLEL UNIVERSE THAT HELD THAT PO-TENTIAL.
WHERE ARE RUNE AND EAST NOW?
W-WE DON'T HAVE TO HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATION-SHIP!
IDIOT!
...A-ARE WE, UH...
...GOING TO GET M-M-MAR-RIED...?
...
...IF YOU DID HAVE A WAY... WOULD YOU?
I JUST LOST MY SPIRIT CIRCLE AND HAVE NO WAY TO FIGHT YOU NOW.
BESIDES, I STILL HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU.

THE WORD ECHOED AROUND INSIDE MY HEAD

TIRED.

SMILE にゃっ
SMILE にゃっ
SMILE にゃり
SMILE にゃり
にゃり SMILE
THEY'RE SO CUTE!!
WHY DID THEY SMILE?
SOMETIMES THEY SMILE FOR NO REASON.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
BUT THE BOY SEEMS LIKE HE'LL GROW UP TO BE CHEEKY.
THEY WERE SO CUTE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
APPARENTLY FRATERNAL TWINS ARE LIKE THAT.
THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH ALIKE EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE TWINS.

SIGN: LIBRARY / STUDY ROOM A

MARCH
FINAL EXAMS HAD ENDED.
AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
DUE TO HER PARENTS' CIRCUMSTANCES, ISHIGAMI-SAN WILL BE TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS AGAIN.
I WASN'T HERE LONG, BUT THANK YOU FOR BEING KIND TO ME DURING THAT TIME.

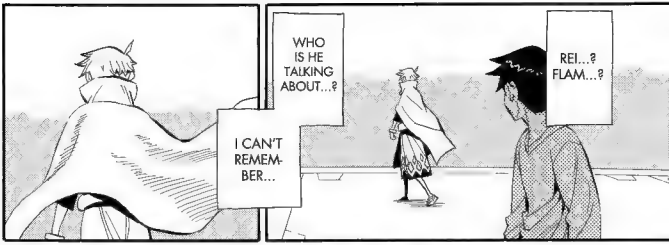
EVEN IF I TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL...
...I WON'T FORGET YOU.

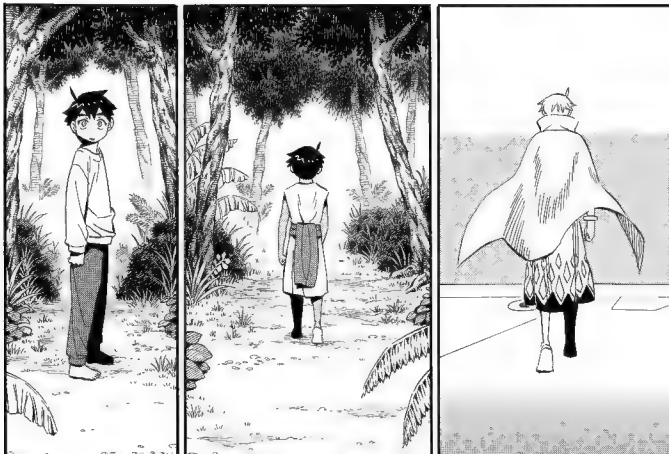
...FORGET EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.
IF WE PART WAYS NOW...
...I REALLY MIGHT...

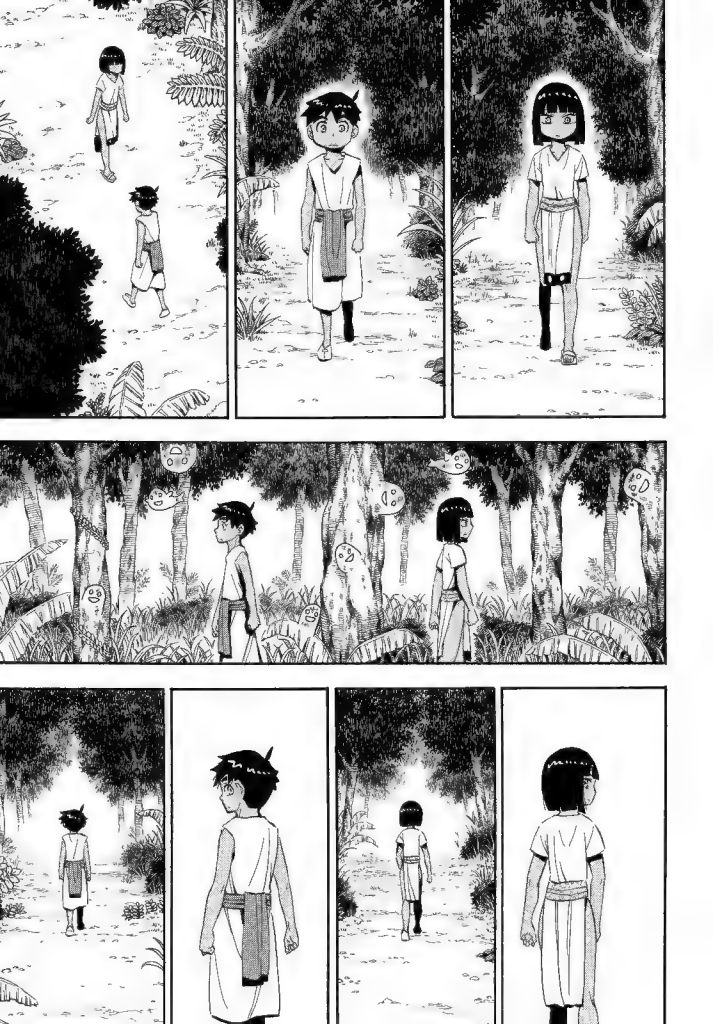
...I HAD A DREAM
THE NIGHT OF THE GOING-AWAY PARTY..

IT'S BETTER TO FORGET SOME THINGS.
WHO IS HE...?
I CAN'T REMEMBER...
BUT...
...DON'T FORGET GRATITUDE.
TREASURE PEOPLE.
TREASURE YOUR FRIENDS.
TREASURE LOVE.
TREASURE FAMILY.

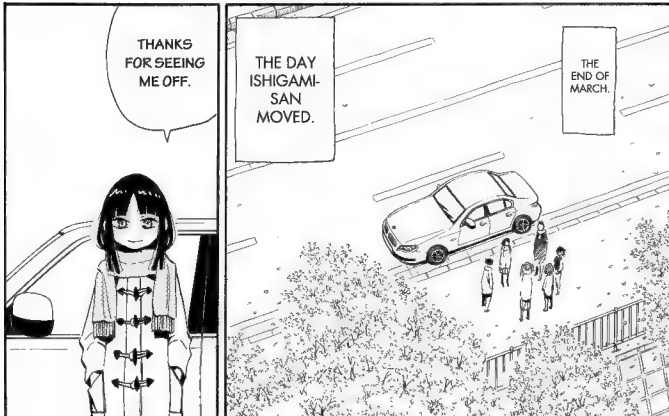
SAY HI TO REI-SENSEI AND FLAMBE FOR ME.
I'M GOING NOW.


I CAN'T REMEMBER...
WHO IS HE TALKING ABOUT...?
REI...? FLAM...?



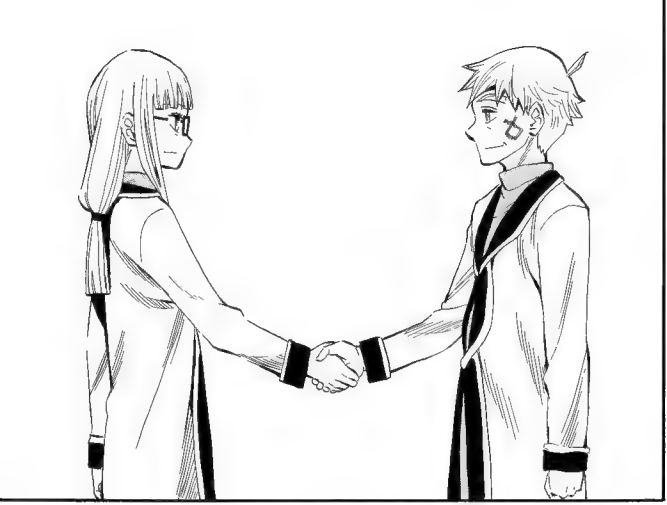


I FELT A BUNCH OF THINGS ENDING INSIDE ME.
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT ANYMORE.


THANKS FOR SEEING ME OFF.
THE DAY ISHIGAMI-SAN MOVED.
THE END OF MARCH.

SURE.
LATER.
BYE-BYE, ISHIGAMI-SAN.
DON'T FORGET TO E-MAIL US.
TAKE CARE, KOKO-CHAN.
YEAH. YOU, TOO.
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER YOUR PAST LIVES?
ISHIGAMI-SAN...
...
THIS IS GOOD-BYE.
WHAT AM I ASKING?
PAST LIVES?
WHAT?
I'LL FORGET EVERY-THING...
...AND IT'LL BE OVER.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER.
THE PRESENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PAST.
HERE.
SHAKE MY HAND.



TUG

WHA...
WHAT ...?
SHOVE

I'M GOING TO TOKYO FOR COLLEGE!!
IF WE HAPPEN TO MEET AGAIN THERE, I'LL GIVE SOME THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT COMES NEXT!

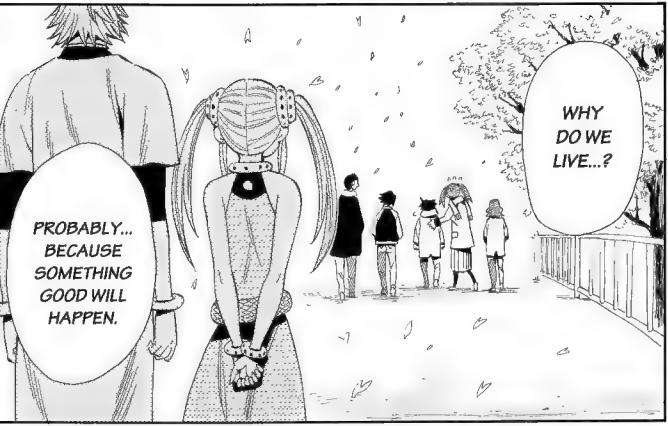
VWIRRR
WELL, NOT LIKE I CARE IF YOU COME OR NOT.
UNTIL THEN, I'LL LET NONO LOOK AFTER YOU!!
SLAM
NEXT?!
NE--

MAKE NONO HAPPY THEN.
I'LL GIVE UP.
NONO, SORRY FOR SCARING YOU.
WHAP
I-I WON'T LET GO!!
HURK!
GRAB
FWOOSH

I WON'T LET GOOO!!
WHAP
BYE!!
VROOOOM

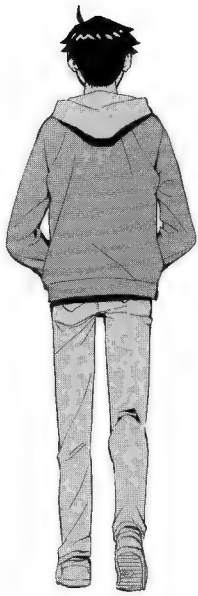
...WHAT A TERRIFYING DAUGHTER I HAVE...
WH-WHY ARE YOU BLUSH-ING?
ONE STEP TOWARDS ADULT-HOOD...
WHAT WAS THAT...?
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THAT.
THAT WAS SCARY...

YOU CAN ALWAYS START FROM WHERE YOU ARE.
YANK
WHEW
WHAT?
NOTHING HAD ENDED.
NOTH-ING...
SLUMP


PROBABLY... BECAUSE SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN.
WHY DO WE LIVE...?

CHAPTER 8

"FUUTA"



THE JOURNEY CON-TINUES

Extra
Koko and Kouko

BUT IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS JUST AN INSTANT.
THIS JOURNEY OF SOULS LASTED SEVEN LIFETIMES,

AND MEMORIES OF OUR PAST LIVES AS HUMANS SIMPLY BECOME UNNECESSARY.

WE DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF OUR LIVES AS PLANTS, INSECTS, OR ANIMALS,

AT ANY TIME,

COULD DESTROY THE WORLD OR SAVE IT.

I'M SURE THAT ANYONE,

BUT THAT WASN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL.

I SAVED THE WORLD ONCE.

MUST BE SEARCHING FOR SOME-THING.

THOSE SOULS, WANDERING WITHOUT THEIR MEMORIES IN THE CIRCLE OF REINCARNATION,

AND FOR ALL THOSE SOULS TO UNDERTAKE

SUCH A LONG JOURNEY...

……

I LOVED HIM.

I ADMIRED HIM.

SO I COULDN'T FORGIVE HIM.

A SOUL THAT CANNOT FORGIVE BECOMES A VENGEFUL SPIRIT.

HATRED BRINGS THE SPIRIT OUT OF THE SPIRAL,

AND SEALS IT IN A CLOSED CIRCLE.

IT IS A TRULY FEARSOME POWER.

AND FORGIVE-NESS

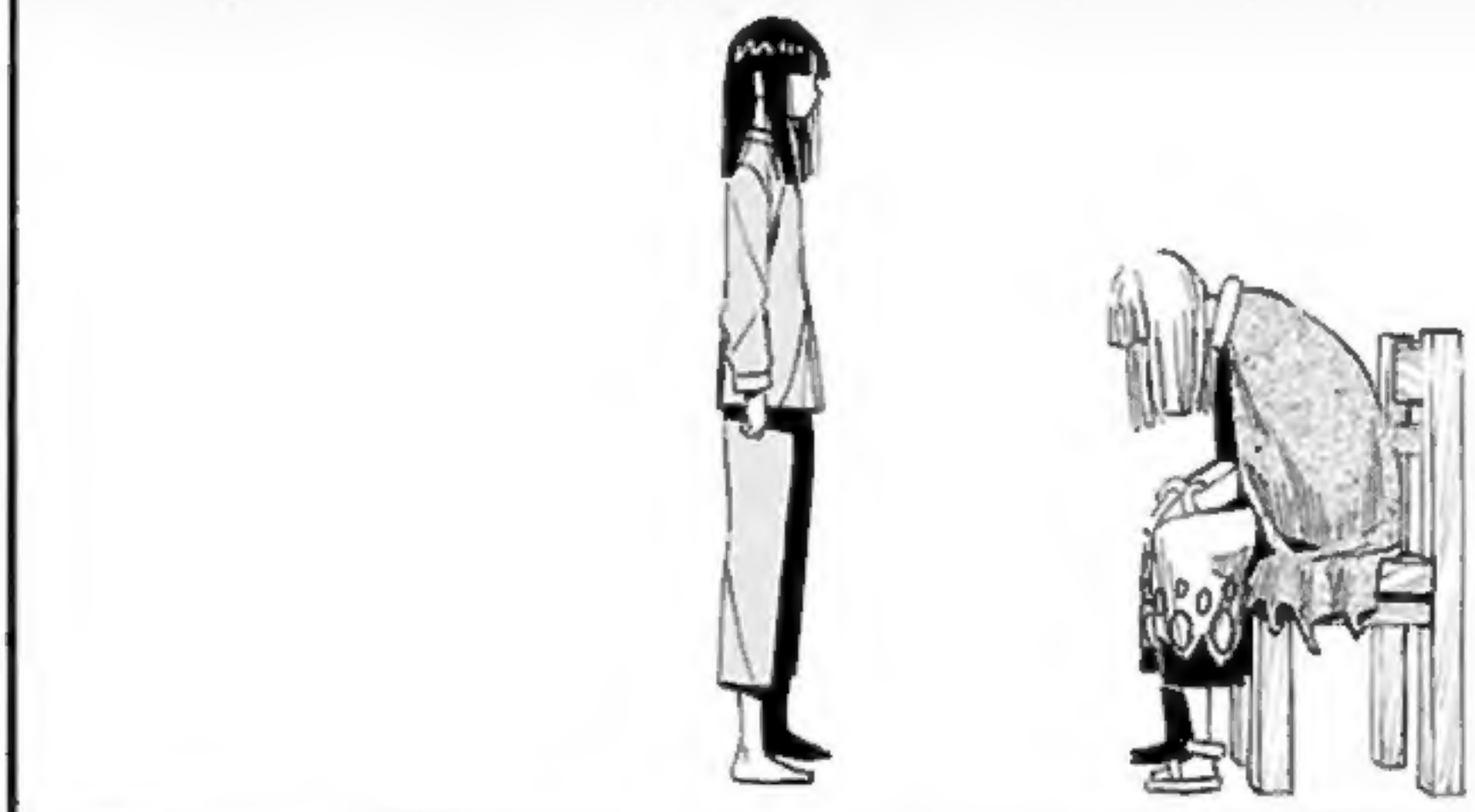
IS THE POWER OF SALVATION

THAT RESTORES ALL TO AS IT SHOULD BE.

THAT POWER TO FORGIVE

IS PART OF WHAT ALL SOULS SEEK.

THAT IS WHAT I THINK.



AND I FORGIVE YOU,
KOKO.
I FORGIVE HIM.
I FORGIVE MYSELF.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO ON A NEW JOURNEY NOW.
THANK YOU.

GOODBYE.

GOODBYE, ME.

スピリットサークル 魂環
SPIRIT CIRCLE

The End